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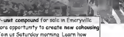

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On the Cover *Illustration by Roxanne Pasibe.*

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Sending Holiday Cards: When Should You Use Office Tech?

(E)Tis the season to start thinking about sending holiday cards to your client list. More than a tradition, sending holiday greetings is a great way to keep in touch with your customers and keep your business top-of-mind in the new year. Relying on office technology can make this task infinitely easier.

Here are a few guidelines for incorporating tech into your tradition without losing the personal touch.

When to use technology:

Addressing: Never use printed labels, but you can outsource the task to handwriting specialists on Etsy.

Sending e-cards: E-cards might seem impersonal, but you can work with a graphic designer to incorporate your logo or industry specifics into the design of the card.

When not to use technology:

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By *Prasana William*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
New Years eve guide

LETTERS

It's Not Just the Cops

The legal system in the United States has always been on two tracks. Whites — with money and attorneys — have always been treated differently from others. It's way bigger than police misconduct. The feds are also complicit by not pursuing Wall Street when it crashed the economy. Many corporations — in the oil, pharmaceuticals, agribusiness, and mining industries — routinely violate environmental laws, endangering the health of citizens, and nobody ever goes to jail. At the same time, we have the audacity to preach "rule of law" to other countries. That is one of the major challenges of our time.

Gary Patton, Hayward

Media Myths About Protests, Opinion, 12/10

Change Is Possible

What do you mean, back in the day police used provocateurs? They still do, all the time, everywhere.

And they arrest people, unlawfully search and seize material in homes and offices, unlawfully injure and kill people, unlawfully. And the courts, mainstream media, and many ordinary citizens often support this. It was ever so and ever will be. The lesson, though, is that public protests are only one tool, and it is still possible, sometimes, to make substantial change.

Mike Bradley, Oakland

You Validated My Distrust

Excellent article, Sam Lefebvre. I have long distrusted streaming services such as Pandora and its ilk. Now I have concrete reasons for my skepticism.

Your story was linked in an email newsletter from The Last Record Store in Santa Rosa. Here's hoping for wide distribution of your writing. Support indie music!

Shawn R. Britton, Monte Rio

[illegible] What the Fork, 12/3

The Town Rocks

I love Town Kitchen. The past ten years have been amazing to watch. Viva La Town!

Justine TenZeldam, Oakland

Thanks, Luke!

Luke Tsai, thanks so much for the article and support!

Sabrina Mutukisna, Oakland

In the Spirit of the FSM

The Board of the Free Speech Movement Archives is in solidarity with UC statewide protests against increased tuition fees. In raising tuition, the Board of Regents is in direct violation of the Master Plan for Higher Education, the Donahoe Act, signed into law by Governor "Pat" Brown on April 27, 1960. This standing law guarantees that tuition at the UC campuses will never be charged, in order to make higher education in the state accessible to all people. Whether the discriminatory charges are called tuition or fees, they violate the guiding principal of the law: that higher education ought to be available to all eligible California high school graduates regardless of their economic means. We also call on the governor and the state Legislature to live up to their responsibilities, as required by the California Education Code, "to ensure that resources are provided" to permit all eligible students wishing to attend the University of California to do so, without demanding reductions in the quality of the UC education offered to them.

The Free Speech Movement Archives is a California nonprofit (since 1996) that collects and preserves FSM history and educates coming generations in the spirit of the Free Speech Movement.

Lee Felsenstein, Gar Smith, Anita Medal, Bettina Aptheker, Susan Druding, Barbara Garson, Jackie Goldberg, Lynne Hollander Savio, Jack Radey, Barbara Stack, Robert Cohen, the Board of Directors of the Free Speech Movement Archives

Corrections

Our December 10 edition of Letters contained a false assertion by a letter writer that Game Changer Fitness is run by a lesbian. Our December 17 news story "Media Ignores Black Protest," contained a typographical error: Tamir Rice was twelve years old when he was shot to death by police — not twenty. And our December 17 dining review "Everyday Izakaya," listed the incorrect hours for AS B-Dama. They are Monday–Saturday 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Monday–Thursday 5–9:30 p.m., and Friday–Saturday 5–10 p.m. ●

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The Ahwahnee Hotel, which opened in 1927, is a National Historic Landmark. Wikimedia Commons

ECO WATCH

HIJACKING YOSEMITE

A private corporation that operates concessions at the national park claims that it "owns" the names of some Yosemite's most iconic places, including the Ahwahnee Hotel and Badger Pass.

By Robert Gammon

For most visitors, Yosemite National Park is far more than just Half Dome and El Capitan. Indeed, the jewel of the US national park system includes numerous scenic locales, such as Yosemite and Nevada falls, Tuolumne Meadows, and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias. But a large and politically influential corporation that runs concessions at Yosemite is attempting to appropriate some of the names of the park's most well known places. And if the company Delaware North, is successful, the nation may forever lose the rights to such place names as the Ahwahnee Hotel, Badger Pass, Curry Village, the Wawona Hotel, and Yosemite Lodge.

Earlier this year, Delaware North, which has held the concessions contract at Yosemite since 1993, quietly informed the National Park Service of its claim of owning the names to several of Yosemite's most famous spots, including the historic Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley, according to park service documents. Starting on July 12, Delaware North sent a series of letters to the park service, stating that it had filed federal tradename and servicemark registrations for nearly all of the names of places within Yosemite in which it operates concessions.

Delaware North's trademark claims come at a time when the park service is soliciting bids for a new concessionaire's agreement at Yosemite. Delaware North contends that if the park service decides to award the concessions agreement to another company, then the park service must pay Delaware North $51 million in "intellectual property rights" fees for the right to continue to use the names Ahwahnee Hotel, Badger Pass, Curry Village, the Wawona Hotel, and Yosemite Lodge, park documents show.

"This came as a complete surprise to us," said Yosemite chief spokesperson Scott Gediman, who is also a park ranger. "We did not think [Delaware North] would claim ownership to these names. ... These names belong to the American people."

Not surprisingly, Delaware North's claims are sparking outrage among California's environmental community. "The whole notion that they have the right to these names — to the Ahwahnee Hotel and to other scenic places in Yosemite — is ludicrous," said Amy Trainer, executive director of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. Trainer keeps close tabs on national park service issues. "It's a hijacking."

Delaware North representatives did not return phone calls seeking comment for this report. On Monday, the park service extended the deadline for prospective concessionaires to submit applications for the Yosemite contract to January 21. The previous deadline was January 8.

On November 20, the park service informed prospective concessionaires that, because of Delaware North's claims, the new concessionaire could choose to rename the Ahwahnee Hotel, Badger Pass, Curry Village, the Wawona Hotel, and Yosemite Lodge (with the park service's approval). That way neither the park service nor the new concessionaire would have to worry about Delaware North's $51 million intellectual property rights claims. But if that were to happen, those world-famous locales would no longer have the names that Americans have come to hold dear.

"It sounds like extortion," said Jeff Miller of the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity. "It sounds like a company that we don't want working in our national parks. I hope they don't get the new concessions agreement."

To be clear, Delaware North is not laying claim to the actual places and facilities it operates in Yosemite — just to their names. But if rival companies are required to either pay $51 million to Delaware North or stop using some of the best-known place names in the park, they will likely consider the concessions agreement to be less valuable. Gediman declined to reveal the names of other companies interested in bidding on the deal, but said that Delaware North has informed its competitors of its intellectual property claims.

Delaware North originally took over the Yosemite concessions agreement in 1993, signing a fifteen-year contract valued at $1.5 billion at the time. The Yosemite deal is known as the largest and most lucrative concessions agreement in the national park system. Before Delaware North, the Curry Company operated concessions at Yosemite for 94 years. But the George H.W. Bush administration ruled in the early 1990s that the Curry Company was no longer eligible for the Yosemite contract because a Japanese firm had bought it.

Prior to winning the Yosemite contract, Delaware North had never before run a concessions operation in a national park. Until the early Nineties, the Buffalo-based company was best known for operating concessions at sports stadiums. Delaware North, which is now one of the largest privately held companies in North America, is owned by the billionaire Jacobs family, which has extensive holdings in New York and Florida. CEO Jeremy Jacobs also owns the Boston Bruins professional hockey team. The company also owns casinos, horseracing tracks, and greyhound dog-racing facilities, and currently holds the concessions agreements for the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, and the Kennedy Space Center.

Federal and state campaign finance and lobbying records show that, over the years, Jeremy Jacobs and the Jacobs family have donated large sums to the Republican and Democratic parties and politicians in Washington, DC, California, New York, Florida, Arizona, and other states. California Democrats who have received big campaign donations from the Jacobs family include Governor Jerry Brown, US Senator Barbara Boxer, and Congressman George Miller. The Jacobs family also has donated thousands of dollars to Hillary Rodham Clinton, John Kerry, and Mitt Romney.

Delaware North also has an infamous past. The company used to be known as Emprise Corporation when it was run by Jeremy Jacobs' father, Louis Jacobs, a racetrack kingpin who was known as the godfather of the sports betting industry, according to a 1972 *Sports Illustrated* exposé "Look What Louie Wrought."

When I asked Yosemite spokesperson Gediman whether he thought Delaware North was attempting to extort cash or a renewal of its concessions agreement by claiming that it owns many of the park's most well known names, Gediman declined to speculate.

In all likelihood, the park service will have to fight Delaware North's intellectual property claims in court if it decides to not renew the company's concessions agreement. After all, the Ahwahnee Hotel, which opened in 1927, is a National Historic Landmark, as is the Wawona Hotel, built in 1876.

On Monday, the park service issued a memo to prospective concessionaires asserting that it does, in fact, own the rights to Yosemite's most famous names. But it seems clear that the park service should have issued such a memo long ago and trademarked the place names of Yosemite well before Delaware North decided to do it. ●

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A GARDEN THRIVES IN BERKELEY

Thanks to the efforts of garden instructor Matt Tsang, students at Willard Middle School are harvesting vegetables, cooking, and selling meals to the public

By Sasha Harris-Lovett

One rainy evening in late November, the Willard Middle School kitchen bustled with activity. Students sliced golden cornbread into square portions and ladled steaming chili into take-out containers. Volunteers shuttled baking trays back and forth while visitors paid for meals they had ordered online. Matt Tsang, Willard's garden program manager, chatted with the students serving food, checked in with the volunteers, and greeted visitors at the door. His hearty laugh could frequently be heard over the din.

This was the third meal that Willard students prepared with ingredients from their school garden and sold to the community through Tsang's new program, Growing Leaders. The program is Tsang's response to last year's federal budget cuts that de-funded Berkeley schools' well-regarded gardening and cooking programs, along with other nutrition education programs across the nation. Left with a barebones budget that was pieced together from donations and grants and that would require Willard Middle School to end all cooking classes and limit gardening only to sixth graders, Tsang, in collaboration with a network of dedicated volunteers and teachers, proposed something new: a gardening and cooking class that would help pay for itself.

Growing Leaders meals are like savory bake sales gone high tech and gourmet. Tsang's seventh/eighth grade elective class plans the meals, grows vegetables in the garden, cooks the food, sells the meals, and learns about entrepreneurship in the process. Before meals are sold to the public on Thursday evenings, Tsang's students dedicate a week of classes to harvesting and preparing ingredients, then cooking and assembling the meals. Growing Leaders has partnered with Josephine, a new online platform (Josephine.com) that connects homemade meals to hungry — paying — neighbors. Tsang hopes his students will sell about 150 meals every other week — and with the meals priced at $10, they're hoping to raise $20,000 per year to help support Willard's gardening and cooking programs. It's an ambitious business plan for middle school students to pull off, but if anyone can lead the program to success, it's Tsang.

Matt Tsang Bert Johnson

Tsang started working in the Willard garden seventeen years ago as an AmeriCorps member. Since then, he's grown the school's garden from a few haphazard planter boxes to a model outdoor classroom for Willard's 550 students. He's known around school for his wide, easy smile and for his lighthearted, joking nature. Thanks to Tsang's green thumb and years of digging and planting with students, the garden is now a lush, productive mini farm that is slowly taking over the lower part of the asphalt schoolyard and the defunct Willard pool area.

Tsang is more than just a gardening teacher. He also moonlights as the coach of an elite Bay Area women's Ultimate Frisbee team, Fury, which he's led to seven national titles and two world championships. He was also the assistant coach of the US national Ultimate Frisbee team that won gold in the 2013 Ultimate World Games in Colombia. "Coaching and teaching are really similar," Tsang explained. "A lot of being successful ... is about being resilient. I say with my sports team that we're striving to be perfect — but perfect in how we react to imperfection."

The same attitude has served Tsang well in his position at Willard. Budget cuts, short class periods, lack of job security, the challenge of coordinating thirty kids to safely cook meals that taste good — none of these challenges seem to faze him. His secret to staying positive, he said, is "just not accepting that those obstacles are immovable."

After the district-wide budget cuts last year slashed Tsang's position to less than half-time, the school and community rallied to raise funds to support him. Willard's principal, Debbie Dean, said Tsang and other volunteers were "writing grants tirelessly" last year to try to keep the garden and cooking program alive. This year, the school is helping fund a year of Growing Leaders programming as a pilot project, even though it is more expensive to run than other elective classes because it requires instructors in both the garden and kitchen. "The community believes in it," Dean said. "It was our parents and the larger community that raised an incredible amount of money to keep the gardening and cooking program going."

Dean said some people at the school originally had doubts about whether Tsang's plan for Growing Leaders would work. Would they really be able to sell more than a hundred meals every other week? Now, she said, skeptics have changed their minds. Willard parents have come out in droves to buy the food. "They sell out every time," she said.

That success is due, in part, to the strong community Tsang has built.

Cindy Tsai Schultz, parent of a Willard student who graduated two years ago, came to observe one of Tsang's classes when she heard that funding for the school's gardening and cooking program was going to be cut. She remembers seeing a diverse group of students calmly chopping vegetables with six-inch long chef's knives. "I saw these kids really engaged, really nurtured," Tsai Schultz recalled. "One of the boys told me it was the only place he felt safe." Touched by what she saw and heard, Tsai Schultz now volunteers as Growing Leaders' director of community partnerships.

Since then, she has raised funds for the program, developed a plan for getting local business owners to mentor students, and forged the initial connection with Josephine to manage the logistics of selling the food. "The missing link for us was, how are we going to market this?" she said. "We had to hit the ground running with those meals."

Twenty-four year old Charley Wang, one of the founders of Josephine, seems almost starstruck by Tsang. "When I first met Matt, the first thing that came through my head was, 'I should be following that guy. I should be trying to do that,'" Wang said. "We had a conversation where I was like, 'Hey, whatever you do next, keep me on the roster.' ... To be able to work with people like Matt is really awesome."

Wang isn't the only one who feels that way. Tsang has an army of supporters who donate their time and expertise to help Growing Leaders stay afloat. "We have a team," Tsang said, gesturing to the Willard kitchen full of students, parents, Josephine employees, and volunteers from UC Berkeley and local high schools.

But even the best team can't operate without enough resources. It's not clear whether there will be funds available for Growing Leaders from the school or the district next year, and the funds that students can raise by selling food, while considerable, are not enough to cover all the costs of staffing the program.

District wide, there are hopes that future funding for Berkeley schools' gardening and cooking programs will come from revenue from Measure D, the soda tax initiative passed by city voters last month. Measure D will tax sugar-sweetened beverages by one cent per ounce, and is estimated to raise at least $1 million per year in general funds for the city. "I'm hopeful that money will be spent for nutrition education and public health," said Josh Daniels, president of the Berkeley school board. But ultimately, he said, the decision about what to do with the funds lies with the city council.

"It's stressful a bit," Tsang said. He has no guarantees that his program, or his job, will exist next year. But because he has seen how Growing Leaders can engage students in school as well as teach them marketable job skills, he is committed to making it work. When school was canceled during a recent rainstorm, several students and volunteers offered to help the Growing Leaders staff finish preparing all the meals for sale that evening.

"This has been a very positive program for getting the school community and parents involved in our students becoming entrepreneurs," principal Dean said. But whether the program will continue next year, she added, "will come down to the dollars." ●

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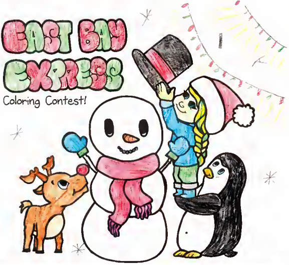
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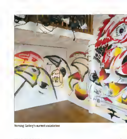
Naming Gallery's current installation

Bert Johnson

YEAR IN REVIEW

DOWNTOWN, UP AND COMING

In 2014, vacant storefronts in downtown Oakland began blossoming with inclusive art spaces, adding to preexisting spots to form a happening district for local creators.

By Sarah Burke

When LoQuiVive Gallery first opened its doors on Webster Street, the sidewalk outside was quiet. Cofounder Sorell Raino-Tsui and a few partners moved into the building between 15th and 17th streets in 2006 with silk-screening businesses and hopes of eventually starting a store and gallery. Now, after many collaborative shifts, he and cofounder Michael Brehaug have been running the flourishing LoQuiVive for three years. Over the past nine, Raino-Tsui has watched the neighborhood outside his windows gradually transform. But 2014 marked the most drastic changes for the area south of 20th Street and east of Broadway. New spaces sprouted up throughout the neighborhood, filling vacancies between long-standing establishments, and many of them are arts-oriented. Meanwhile, preexisting galleries and venues are gaining momentum. The dense stretch is coming to life as a district, and many local business owners agree that the recent developments are likely just the beginning.

Because rent is still cheap in the area, many of the curators in the new spaces have taken the opportunity to show work by young, emerging artists, creating a hub at the city's center for art that might otherwise be pushed to more marginal galleries or warehouses. That often translates to work that is risky and relevant, engaging a youthful gallery audience quite different than that of Art Murmur collectors. And as the neighborhood is livening up, with many new trendy shops, eateries, and art spaces recently opened or set to open soon, foot traffic is steadily increasing.

Much of that foot traffic has been on 25th Street, just past Webster. In the past year, the block has blossomed. Naming Gallery opened just a few months before 2014 began, and then came Mary Weather in January, then Omeroo, Tilde Solequest, Burnt Oak, Shipping and Receiving, and Third Eye Studio — all in less than a year. The group of galleries and businesses that support local artists has quickly built a creative community that draws crowds to the block with coinciding events on the second Saturday of every month. The *Express* wrote about the development of the block in depth in its Local Economy issue ("The Art of Neighborhood Creation," 6/11/2014). And *Oakland* magazine even called it "The Most Exciting Block in Oakland" in its December issue.

Mary Weather is coming up on its one-year anniversary, and owner Judy Elkan said that it's been a whirlwind experience to see the block pick up. Feeling privileged to have a space, she immediately began offering up the Mary Weather walls to whoever was interested in putting their work on them, almost entirely without discretion. "I just think there's so much talent here, and people are looking for spaces to have a show or throw a party or put their wares, or even give them away," she said in an interview. "People just want to get their stuff out there." By constantly saying "yes," Elkan has developed a broad community. In the coming year, though, she'll be passing off the curating duties to someone more practiced.

Brothers Ian and Jared Jethmal had dreamed of starting a gallery since elementary school. Late into summer, Elkan saw that there was an open storefront on 25th and told the brothers that they should check it out. The young Jethmals partnered with friend Calvin Wong, and thought that their moment had come — until their application was denied. But then they found a spot on 25th Street between Broadway and Franklin Street that turned out to be larger and cheaper. They were initially hesitant about opening up shop seemingly far away from friends like LoQuiVive and VAMP on 19th. But after taking a step back, they realized that the extra two-block stretch was nothing, because they predict the entire neighborhood will blow up in the next few years. "What's going on out there in the city, it's all being pushed here, and we're at the start of something new," said Wong. The three Bay Area natives feel that it's the perfect time to secure a space, and downtown Oakland is the ideal place to do it. Their gallery, Good Mother, is set to open in January.

Next door to Good Mother is E.M. Wolfman Small Interest Bookstore, a cozy book shop and gallery that Justin Carder opened in April of this year. Carder's primary goal was to create a space for writers, artists, musicians, and community members to gather and hold events for free. He felt that a bookstore was the perfect retail outfit for that, because it's welcoming and familiar to all kinds of people. Although Carder was unsure what the response from the community was going to be, he immediately found that there was a heavy demand for that kind of space downtown, and he has been hosting around twelve well-attended readings a month. Specifically, a lively community of emerging writers, poets, and zine creators has taken to the intimate, alternative feel of the space. "In the Bay Area at this point there's such a premium on space that just having an open space is key — is crucial," he said.

At Good Mother, too, the focus is on providing an inclusive creative venue. Wong and the Jethmals hope to showcase artists that are producing solid work, regardless of how well known they are. They will be placing emerging artists next to established ones in a way that they hope will create opportunity for young artists and inspire them to stay motivated. Their goal is also to avoid the chasm of the art world that they sometimes encounter at San Francisco galleries, by offering an art space that's accessible yet maintains a standard of quality and taste. "With art, it's a language, you know, and I feel like the language has been made to be jargon for a lot of people in the scene," said Wong. "We're trying to make that language coherent to people again."

B4BEL4B, a warehouse art gallery and performance venue that popped up on the corner of 10th and Jackson streets in April, has the same goal of providing space for emerging artists with experimental leanings. All of the artists it has featured so far have been between 20 and 35 years old, and the crowds for their packed opening parties reflect the same demographic. B4BEL4B's shows have included an elaborate live-sculpture performance piece called *Islands of Flesh* and a night of immersive and experiential "tech-art" installations called *Ephemeral Vessels*. The idea is to provide a large space for art to be lived, not just seen. "I don't want to have to go to Burning Man to experience that," said cofounder Tiare Ribeaux. "I would like it to be more in a gallery setting."

The general response among the new downtown inhabitants is that they appreciated what the Art Murmur galleries were doing, but hope for more diversity in the Oakland art scene. Carder said he moved downtown specifically because he wanted to do something separate from First Friday, something at which he knew attendees were there because of interest in art and not just because of a street party. But all were also concerned about contributing to gentrification and figuring out the best ways to benefit the immediate community. Carder said that he didn't want to crowdfund or apply for grants specifically for this reason, because he felt that if he could stay afloat by selling books to the community, then that was a clear sign that they wanted it there. So far, sales have been good, and Carder has been curating the retail offerings based on community requests.

One of the biggest benefits to the neighborhood in recent years has been the murals that have brightened the urban landscape. Local artists are glad to get the exposure, while local businesses are happy to see less tagging. The majority of these murals have been facilitated by LoQuiVive, which worked with local artists to paint eleven walls in the area this year alone. The gallery saw many milestones this year, and has been establishing a name for itself on the West Coast and beyond. In November, its show with popular San Francisco street artist Zio Ziegler brought out a promising crowd of art patrons to the Oakland neighborhood. The gallery is paving the way for the area as an arts district, and if others nearby can follow with similar success, things are looking up for the area.

Still, at the beginning of December, Psychic Reality, across the street from LoQuiVive, put up a big red sign that read "Lost our lease." The building that the shop has inhabited for nearly a decade was coincidentally the one on which Ziegler painted a massive mural in conjunction with his show. Owner Ginny Carlson Todd said that the doubling of her rent was an inevitable symptom of the wave of migration from San Francisco. The blaring lease sign has served as a reminder of the ways in which even arts-related development can contribute to a broader issue of displacement.

In terms of the arts scene, a common complaint is that the gallery landscape in Oakland is too flat, without enough summits to climb for better exposure. Having another concentrated arts district outside of Art Murmur that focuses on different work and offers a variety of entry levels could help that issue. At this point, the outcome remains to be seen, but it's clear that the area is going to see a lot more attention soon. "It's going to come when people know that they can just come east of Broadway a couple blocks and spend an entire afternoon and go and have coffee and stroll and go shopping, and then see some galleries," said Elkan. "We're here — we just need the people now." ●

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Sampson McCormick warms up the crowd at Funny Fun, a weekly queer comedy night at Club 21 Bert Johnson

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE YEAR IN QUEER

2014 was a momentous year for LGBT rights and entertainment. Follow us as we look back at some of the highlights (and a few lowlights) of the year.

By Anna Pulley

It's been a watershed year for queer rights, both in the East Bay and in the United States at large, and not simply because Ellen Page finally came out. In 1990, same-sex marriage was illegal literally everywhere in the world, and now 35 states in the US allow same-sex couples to marry (and it's only a matter of time before the rest follow suit). Obama's Affordable Care Act expanded health benefits for many queer and trans people because it forbid health insurance marketplaces from discriminating based on gender identity and pre-existing conditions such as gender dysphoria. And *The New York Times* finally recognized the existence of bisexuality in men! Follow us on a journey back through 2014's many LGBT highlights (and a few lowlights).

"Gay Panic" Defense Dies

In September, California became the first state to outlaw the "gay panic" and "trans panic" line of defense in criminal cases when Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 2501 into law. The gay panic defense has often been used to justify violence toward LGBT people and garner reduced sentences for those who perpetrate that violence. According to the "reasoning" behind it, a person's overwhelming hatred for LGBT people causes them to "panic" and commit terrible acts against them. It's an appalling, victim-blaming tactic, and one that, sadly, has been invoked numerous times over the years. It was invoked (unsuccessfully) in the case of Gwen Araujo, an eighteen-year-old trans woman from Newark who was beaten to death by four men in 2002 (and whose death prompted the creation of the International Transgender Day of Remembrance). Gay panic was also used (successfully) in the case of openly gay fifteen-year-old Larry King, who was shot twice in 2008 in the back of the head by a classmate, Brandon McInerney. McInerney eventually pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

Respect After Death

Governor Brown also signed into law the "Respect After Death" act, which ensures that trans people can have their gender identity reflected in their death certificates. "We are grateful to the Governor, California's Legislature, and the leadership of Assembly Speaker Atkins for enacting this common-sense bill that will help protect the dignity of our loved ones upon their passing," said Masen Davis, executive director of Transgender Law Center, in a statement about the act's passage. "This brings us a significant step closer to making sure that all transgender people are able to live — and die — authentically in accordance with who they really are."

Social Media Strides

In February, Facebook gave its users more than fifty custom gender options, appeasing those who don't identify as simply "male" or "female." The social network also rolled out options including pronoun choices for "her," "him," or "them." And Facebook allowed users to apply custom privacy settings to their stated gender information, so that users don't have to share their preferences with, say, their boss, far-flung acquaintances, or that random one-night stand from OkCupid. "There's going to be a lot of people for whom this is going to mean nothing, but for the few it does impact, it means the world," said Facebook software engineer Brielle Harrison in a statement about the changes. Harrison worked on the project and identifies as trans herself.

But Facebook later got itself in hot water with the queer community by trying to force its users to use their legal names on the site. Bay Area drag queens and other members of the LGBTQ community were vocal opponents of the policy, claiming it disproportionately affected members of the queer community. The backlash against Facebook prompted many users to switch to a new social media site, Ello (though the number of Ello users pales in comparison to Facebook's 1.2 billion). Facebook eventually backed down and reversed its policy, proving yet again that you shouldn't mess with drag queens.

"We owe you a better service and a better experience using Facebook, and we're going to fix the way this policy gets handled so everyone affected here can go back to using Facebook as you were," wrote Facebook's chief product officer Chris Cox.

On the dating side of social networking, for years LGBT users have complained about the limited gender options on OkCupid, and the popular dating site finally did something about it. In November, the site quietly rolled out an expansion of gender and sexual orientation options for select users, who were notified via email (we're still waiting for our invite, OkC). Gender options include agender, androgynous, cis man, cis woman, genderfluid, gender nonconforming, intersex, trans man, trans woman, and two spirit, among others. And sexuality options users can choose from now include asexual, demisexual, heteroflexible, homoflexible, pansexual, queer, questioning, and sapiosexual.

You Can Still Get Fired in Many States for Being Queer

Twenty-nine states don't have workplace protections for gender identity or sexual orientation — a legal gap that affects an estimated four million LGBT workers. The Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) tried to, well, ends that practice and would have outlawed private discrimination against LGBT employees at most workplaces. It passed the Senate last year, but Speaker John Boehner ensured that it wouldn't come up for a vote in the house, and it's now been set adrift in a Republican-controlled Congress, which doesn't bode well for it. But! The Department of Labor did establish a rule for federal contractors that will prohibit them from discriminating against employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Laverne Cox Conquers the World

2014 has also been the year of Laverne Cox (Long may she reign!). Cox became the first out transgender person nominated for an Emmy award in acting this year for her role as Sophia Burset in the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*. She was also the first trans woman to make the cover of *TIME* magazine. Plus, *Glamour* named her Woman of the Year, and she remains an outspoken activist for LGBT rights in virtually all she does.

Notable Celebrities Who Came Out

College football star Michael Sam made sports history when he became the first out football player to be drafted by an NFL team, the St. Louis Rams. And, in a moving speech at the Human Rights Campaign's "Time to Thrive" conference, actor Ellen Page also came out as gay. So did former Miss Kentucky Djuan Trent, singer Sam Smith, WWE Champion Pat Patterson, and Kristian Nairn, aka Hodor on HBO's *Game of Thrones*. Somebody get these people their toaster ovens, pronto.

The Loss of Many Bay Area Queer Bars

The news that more and more people are coming out is somewhat tempered by the loss of many queer spaces in the last decade. In October, Lila Thirkield, owner of the last lesbian bar in San Francisco, announced it was closing after eighteen years because of high rents and gentrification. The death of The Lexington Club marks the third LGBT bar closure of late in San Francisco — the others were Esta Noche in the Mission and Marlena's in Hayes Valley. "My faith in queer San Francisco still runs deep. It is the best place in the world and dykes and queers are still an integral part of this city. They always will be," Thirkield said in a statement on Facebook. Some good news, however: On New Year's Eve, drag queen extraordinaire Heklina is opening a new nightclub in SOMA called The Oasis.

The New York Times Recognizes the Existence of Bisexuals

The *Times* has a less-than-stellar track record when it comes to reporting on bisexuals (see "Straight, Gay or Lying?"), but in March, *The Times* magazine published a lengthy, in-depth piece on bisexuality by Benoit Denizet-Lewis titled, "The Scientific Quest to Prove Bisexuality Exists," which was informative, well-researched, and worth reading, and has prompted many discussions about bi invisibility and erasure. Now that bisexuality has been "proven" once again, we hope researchers can start to answer more pressing questions, such as why bisexuals report much higher suicide and depression rates than heterosexuals, why so many bisexuals are on food stamps, and why they have more frequent mental health issues than their straight or gay counterparts.

Other Brief Notables

Bay Area comedians started a weekly queer comedy night called Funny Fun at Club 21, which is still going strong. Queen Latifah officiated a massive "Same Love" wedding ceremony onstage at the Grammys. Homobiles, the Bay Area ride-sharing service that serves the queer community and its allies, achieved 501(c)3 nonprofit status. A big loss for the queer community involved the death of Leslie Feinberg, gender warrior and author of *Stone Butch Blues*. The lesbian-owned Laurel bookstore moved to downtown Oakland with the help of a crowdfunding campaign. The *Express* participated in #LezBuDay, a day created by AfterEllen.com in order to support queer businesses across the nation. And in April, the Bay Area Lesbian History Archives Project launched. BALHAP's goal is to gather and preserve the Bay Area lesbian history, culture, community, and activism from the 1940s to today. "Despite innumerable contributions in oppressed communities locally and globally, Bay Area lesbians remain largely invisible in both mainstream and LGBT histories," notes the group's Facebook page. To learn more or donate, visit LabrysHealthcareCircle.com/Arc/BALHAP. ●

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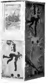

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THE YEAR IN FOOD

In the East Bay, 2014 was a year defined by scrappy pop-ups, food-trucks-turned-restaurants, and purveyors of niche cuisines.

By Luke Tsai

In the East Bay food scene this year, we saw investors pour millions of dollars into projects that included beer gardens of every imaginable shape and size (see "Hoppy New Year" on page 21) and a souped-up bowling alley and video arcade serving gourmet bar food. Big-name local chefs such as James Syhabout and Charlie Hallowell continued to expand their empires, opening well-appointed restaurants at which I enjoyed some of my tastiest meals of 2014.

And yet many of the year's most interesting food stories have been about folks operating on a much smaller, humbler scale — food truck operators opening their very first full-fledged brick-and-mortar spots, fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants pop-ups hidden in unlikely venues, and ventures catering to diners with food sensitivities and other dietary needs that are only now starting to become more mainstream.

In my March 26 What the Fork, "When Food Trucks Move Indoors," I wrote about the growing number of mobile food vendors who have made the transition to life as operators of full-fledged brick-and-mortar restaurants. The trend hasn't abated. In the intervening months, the East Bay's most popular food trucks and street carts have continued their steady march indoors, with street food veterans such as Cupkates and Tina Tamale joining Liba Falafel, Fist of Flour, and others before them — I count at least eight prominent mobile food vendors that opened brick-and-mortar businesses in the East Bay in the past year alone.

In November, Cupkates' "chief cupcake officer" Kate McEachern and her husband Casey opened Stateside Bakery (3001 Telegraph Ave., Ste. E) in a tiny storefront in Berkeley that was previously designated to become an ATM vestibule. According to McEachern, the trend can be attributed, in large part, to the Great Recession. When she launched Cupkates in 2009, the US economy had more or less bottomed out, and prospects for securing the kind of loan that would have been necessary to open an actual restaurant or bakery seemed impossibly dim. The Bay Area's food truck renaissance was born out of that economic climate.

"For a lot of us, it was a way to start a business with a soft launch," McEachern explained. Back then, the idea of a gourmet food truck was novel almost to a fault. McEachern lost count of how many people tried to buy tacos from her. So, as the economy has gotten back on its feet and the food truck scene has blossomed (and approached its saturation point, some would argue), it's only natural that some of the movement's elder statesmen might revisit their long-deferred brick-and-mortar dreams.

For McEachern, having a permanent location where customers can always find her has been incredibly helpful. At the same time, and although Stateside focuses less on cupcakes than on gourmet versions of childhood treats like Twinkies and Oreos, the Cupkates business model hasn't changed much. McEachern still bakes all of her treats out of one central commercial kitchen and relies on her trucks to reach customers and neighborhoods who would otherwise never find out about her products.

Above: Kate McEachern, Cupkates. Below: Gil Lee and Tina "Tamale" Ramos, La Snackeria.

Bert Johnson

"We sort of think of our shop as a truck that doesn't move," she said.

Or, as Tina "Tamale" Ramos said of her new restaurant La Snackeria (815 Washington St., Oakland): "It's kind of like a four-hour pop-up every day, but we don't have to unload the truck." Ramos spent years helping run La Borinqueña, her family's seventy-year-old Mexican deli and catering business, and Ramos' tamale pushcart, Tina Tamale, has been a fixture on the East Bay street food scene since 2011. La Snackeria is a "Chino Latino" eatery that fuses together her background (as a Mexican American from Oakland) with that of her husband Gil Yee (a Chinese American from Louisiana). Think char siu quesadillas and churros made with wonton wrappers. It's Ramos' first restaurant of her own, and she explained that the whirlwind process of getting the place up and running has led her to draw on her experience slinging tamales in the early days of the mobile food movement.

"It's all a little scrappy, a little crazy," she said. "Back in 2011 and 2012, we set up in warehouses. We set up in underground parties. All kinds of crazy stuff."

That kind of "scrappiness" is, to a certain extent, a defining characteristic of Oakland's dining scene. And running a restaurant with what Ramos calls a "pop-up mentality" means she also tries to pay it forward — to up-and-coming food artisans who set up special dinners in her space, the same way other businesses supported her during her early Tina Tamale days.

Speaking of pop-ups, 2014 has also seen their revival as a vital and exciting restaurant genre in their own right. That might seem like a funny assertion — it has probably been a good three years since any frequent restaurant-goer in the Bay Area thought of the pop-up as a novel idea. In fact, at times, the concept has felt played out — a stand-in for the fickleness of a certain type of foodie who's always looking for the shiniest new thing, irrespective of substance. ("Because it isn't a pop-up?" one of my food-writer friends joked when I asked why a certain restaurant seemed so underrated.)

And yet several of my favorite dining experiences of the year took place at pop-ups: POP Sandwich's precisely constructed riffs on banh mi, served from the back of an Uptown Oakland vape shop; Abura-ya, a bare-bones, punk rock-inflected Japanese fried chicken pop-up; and Chris Kronner's sublime takes on rustic French bistro fare, cooked out of the Ordinaire wine shop's makeshift kitchen — just two induction burners and a tabletop oven.

While Kronner's Oakland restaurant, Kronnerburger, is slated to open on Piedmont Avenue next month, he has basically been in permanent pop-up mode for the past two years, with extended runs at the San Francisco Mission district dive bar Bruno's and at Ordinaire, but also stand-alone gigs at countless other venues. So he has become somewhat of a master of the genre.

The importance of the pop-up, Kronner said, is that it represents "a sea change for small operators." Similar to food trucks, pop-ups have become a way for aspiring restaurateurs to test out a concept and build their customer base without having to dive right into a half-million-dollar investment on a full build-out.

"[The pop-up] had its moment where it was new, and as everything has continued to be more difficult and expensive, it just kind of became a more permanent presence," Kronner said.

And it isn't just the unknown home cook who is going this route. Kronner, an acclaimed chef who made a name for himself at San Francisco's Bar Tartine, isn't exactly what I would call an underdog. POP Sandwich proprietor Ian De Leon's previous gig was at the Michelin-starred restaurant Aziza. Juhu Beach Club started out as a pop-up. So did Kingston 11.

Still, what 2014 has shown is that the best pop-ups have some of that "scrappy" quality to them as well — they're affordable; they aren't overly polished. When you finish your meal, you feel like you've had an authentic experience that can't easily be replicated. Kronner said that the best pop-ups should have a synergy to them, whereas the visiting chef understands and embraces what the host restaurant (or album, convenience store) is all about, but also brings his or her own unique sensibility to the table.

Even among the restaurants and other food businesses that opened in a more or less traditional manner this year, you got a sense of folks working at the margins of the industry. Sure, there was the usual crop of pizza restaurants and high-end burger joints, but there were also a ton of new dining establishments geared toward various culinary niches and alternative diets. A Paleo-friendly restaurant opened (Berkeley's Mission: Heirloom Garden Cafe), as well as several ambitious vegetarian and vegan restaurants (including Oakland's Veg 388, itself a pop-up), and more gluten-free food businesses than I can recall opening in a single year.

That trend doesn't look like it's going to change heading into 2015. One of the most intriguing openings of the new year will be The Butcher's Son (1920 Solano Ave., Berkeley), an old-school New York-style delicatessen and bakery with a twist: Everything in the deli case will be vegan, from the Reubens and tuna melts to the cheeses and house-made sausages.

When I asked owner Peter Fikaris why he thought Berkeley would be a good site for what will be one of the country's first strictly vegan delis, he talked about the East Bay's history as a hub for social change, people's desire to eat more healthfully, and the number of people who have moved to the Bay Area from other places, bringing with them a different set of food experiences.

The upshot, for the aspiring food entrepreneur who's willing to scrap, is that folks here are open to different kinds of food. They're willing to try something new. And maybe it doesn't have to be any more complicated than that. ●

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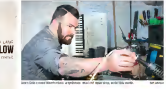

Jason Sole opened Waveformless, a synthesizer retail and repair shop, earlier this month. Bert Johnson

YEAR IN REVIEW

PEAK SYNTH

Analog synthesizers are a Bay Area tradition and local music's most recent gear fixation.

By Sam Lefebvre

Fuzz is a decades-old guitar effect. It sounds great on the Music Machine's 1966 cover of "Hey Joe." Yet in recent years, fuzz emerged as an aesthetic emblem of regional garage rock, encompassing tube amplifiers, Tascam 388 eight-track machines, and especially wooly and nasty-sounding pedals. In 2008, boutique New York pedal designers Death by Audio produced a pedal called Fuzz War. In 2012, Ty Segall released a song called "Fuzz War." That same year, Segall started a band called Fuzz. It was peak fuzz. Though plenty of local musicians are still besotted with the sound, that wave has crested. A different fixation gripped local musicians in 2014: vintage synthesizers.

Earlier this year, Dark Entries Records, a local label helmed by Josh Cheon, issued *Bay Area Retrograde Vol.2*, a compilation of local obscurities from the post-punk era. In the liner notes, Cheon noted the players on each song and their instruments. The credits on Los Microwaves "Silent Sorcerers" list a Roland RS-09, a SH-1000, a Prophet 5, and a DR 55. The fact that no such attention is dealt to guitars, for instance, illustrates the current musical climate's priorities.

Pattern Completion, the Dark Entries-released debut by local industrial artist Michael Ward as RedRedRed, features much of the same gear listed in *Bay Area Retrograde Vol. 2*'s liner notes. Also in 2014, the local artist Cube released *Her Instrument*, an album of finely arranged, clamorous techno saturated with tape collage and synth manipulation. In general, some of the most exciting upstart East Bay record labels — such as Constellation Tatsu, Moon Glyph, and Sanity Muffin — feature synth-laden rosters working in the styles of pop, techno, ambient, and industrial music.

Castle Face Records, the record label perhaps most closely identified with the local garage rock scene, released over a dozen titles in 2014 — half of which prominently feature synthesizers. John Dwyer, label cofounder and leader of the Los Angeles-by-way-of-San-Francisco garage institution Thee Oh Sees, released an all-synthesizer solo album under the moniker Damaged Bug.

Matt Jones, who creates improvisational synthesizer music as Fryberg and runs Castle Face, welcomes the resurgence. Jones, who bought his first synth in 2000, appreciates what he called the "nerdy camaraderie" among fellow players. When asked what he's been working with lately, Jones sent a long list of gear, including the Oberheim OB-8, Korg Poly Six, Moog Taurus II, Simmons SDS-400. As he said, "If you're playing a synthesizer, you're creating a particular sound very deliberately." He continued, "With the old ones, you're using a synth to cut parts out of a sound wave and create your own voice."

Early in 2014, Castle Face released Pow!'s synth-laden *Hi-Tech Boom*. It's increasingly common for groups such as Pow!, whose aesthetic straddles punk and garage rock, to augment a typically guitar-dominated genre with synthesizers. The lyrical content, which skewers the local tech industry, also underscores the renewal of the political component long-associated with underground synthesizer practitioners. The instrumentation and protest lyricism evoke the paradise of industrial music in the 1980s, when musicians mimicked the atmosphere of an imagined technocratic, totalitarian future to criticize the modern sociopolitical climate.

Of course, no one wants their passion pegged as a trend. Local synth enthusiasts are quick to point out that the Bay Area has a lineage of pivotal designers and engineers going back decades. Donald Buchla created the groundbreaking Buchla Box as a commission for the San Francisco Tape Music Center in the 1960s. Keith McMillen, a designer of gestural interfaces compatible with MIDI and analog synths, runs Keith McMillen Instruments out of Berkeley; and Dave Smith, who created the first polyphonic synthesizer in the early 1970s, manufactures new analog synthesizers at Dave Smith Instruments in San Francisco. Smith believes that the resurgent interest in instruments he pioneered in the 1970s has been gaining momentum for over a decade.

"There's been an uptick since 2002," he said in an interview. That year, he explained, the storied synth company Moog reissued its Minimoog and Smith reintroduced the Evolver, a digital/analog synth hybrid that regressed technology he pioneered in the 1980s with his old company Sequential Circuits. A number of reissues followed, notably the Prophet series, and Smith currently employs more than ten people to keep up with demand. Smith worked on synthesizer software in the 1990s, but his activity since 2002 reflects and even seems to validate musicians' preference for older analog gear.

To Smith, analog synths have concrete advantages. "Musicians say they sit better in the mix," he said, adding that they look cool in band pictures and, more nebulously, "They have an analog soul." The high-profile bands and musicians who use Smith's analog synth reissues — such as the Arcade Fire, Radiohead, and James Blake — seem to agree.

Still, many local synth enthusiasts are skeptical of reissues, preferring to track down the original instruments instead. Aged oscillators and other "buggy" components change with time, acquiring what musicians consider to be greater warmth. While preferring vintage gear is partly a reasoned decision, object fetishism and nostalgia also play a role, much as they do in the often groan-inducing preference of record collectors for original vinyl pressings.

Mara Marenbaum, an East Bay musician active as Group Rhoda and as one half of Max and Mara, noted that synthesizers are a long-standing facet of the local noise and electronic community. She attributed the instruments' recent increase in profile to a confluence of factors. For one, she said, "There was a backlash to ... the presence of laptops on stage." Marenbaum continued, "People are responding to a physical interface that has more sonic possibilities than most instruments, but enough limitations to not feel like they are endlessly fumbling around with some flat and overcomplicated software."

Marenbaum, like many synth enthusiasts, is also weary of the resurgence. Vintage gear is more expensive than ever, opportunistic resellers abound, and the underdeveloped output of plenty of subpar songwriters is being honored because it has a vintage, analog sheen. It's a familiar refrain. The purists who've grown accustomed to tracking down their own synths in junk shops, maintaining them, and creating music with them for a small cult of appreciators echo the complaints of old-guard rock 'n' roll musicians decrying trend followers as the garage scene reached peak fuzz.

Perhaps the most telling indication of synthesizers' trending status is the arrival of Waveformless in Temescal Alley. Jason Sole opened Waveformless earlier this month as a synthesizer retailer and repair shop, basically creating a brick-and-mortar location for the internet business he started in 2007. Inside, wall-length patch bays enable each synth on display to connect with a central speaker system. A whiteboard listed eleven current repair jobs, noting technical issues such as triggers, filters, chips, and calibration.

"The people developing these things were visionaries," Sole said. He explained the historical context of every synthesizer's initial introduction. He likened the sonic character accrued by a synth over time to the cultivation of patina. The atmosphere is rarefied, and the prices range from $500 to several thousand, but Sole said that his endeavor is as much about commerce as preservation. "I'm not trying to charge eBay prices," he said. "I want these things to stick around." ●

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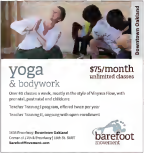
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YEAR IN REVIEW

UPGRADE

Trading up appears to have worked for the Warriors. But for the A's? Not so much.

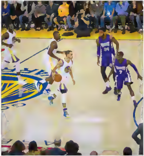
By Kibby Kleiman

As June turned to July, the Oakland Athletics had the best record in all of baseball thanks to the best pitching staff in the game. The A's were doing it in A's style, with general manager Billy Beane displaying the biggest Moneyballs around, having pieced the pitching staff together with a good draft, bargain basement trades, a raid on the infirmary, and then actually buying a player, Brad Mills, for $1 from a rival that thought him overpriced at that.

What Beane did next was the story of 2014 in East Bay sports. He took a look at a good thing — seven All-Stars, Home Run Derby champ, ERA rulers — and then traded up to make it better. First he shed Dollar Mills and then went looking for Quality. But his moves flopped badly. Trading the team's future for the best available pitcher in the National League, and then dealing away the team's only marketable slugger for the best pitcher left in the American, led to an August tailspin, a September free fall, and then a one-game wild card contest that was a microcosm of both months put together. The A's had a big lead, got caught, and then got beat. All in totally agonizing fashion.

As the season ended, the Athletics traded away all of their All-Stars, dumped the entire infield, including their catcher, lost both of summer's pricey baubles, and decided that the hot stove theme would be Quantity. First purchase? Dollar Mills.

Around the same time that the A's were rising, the Golden State Warriors were falling. But a first-round playoff loss was nothing to get too weepy about. Coach Mark Jackson had, in his first three years, brought the usually hapless franchise only its second back-to-back postseason appearances since 1976. Most Warriors fans were thinking that wouldn't happen until the tricentennial. Jackson's reward for this most unlikely of accomplishments was mighty unexpected too — a pink slip. And with that, the notion that good enough isn't good enough made this the year of the upgrade.


Stephen Curry and the Warriors are off to the best start in franchise history. Ben Johnson

Golden State's new hire, Steve Kerr, was a former hoops star turned TV analyst with exactly zero head coaching experience. Dumb, right? Except the last team to do that hired a guy named Mark Jackson three years before. The Warriors must have a Type.

When the 2014 basketball season tipped off, roughly a month after the A's go-for-broke found them broken, the Warriors looked like their trade was going to pay dividends. It did and then it paid off like a crazed slot machine. And then it paid like a drunken sailor who owned stock in slot machines. The Golden team won five in a row to start the basketball year and then got better. By game 20, the Warriors were 18-2, and had set a franchise record for, um, just about everything. Most wins in a row. Best debut ever for a rookie coach. Best new nickname — forward Marreese Speights is now known as Mo Buckets.

And the good times kept rolling even after the improbable seventeen-game winning streak came to an end when the Warriors, without their two injured post players, went to Memphis with a metaphorical arm tied behind their back and still almost saved their metaphorical ass. The Steve Kerr era is the best beginning in the history of the sport, meaning that TNT network's loss is the Bay Area's gain. Of course, they did get Mark Jackson and a sideline reporter to be named later in the trade.

Maybe Golden State's success can be credited to the team's not parlaying every bet for something better. This summer, emerging Warriors guard Klay Thompson was getting staged for a swap to Minnesota for Kevin Love, a bigger man with a bigger name. But Golden State passed and hasn't really thrown a bad pass since. Thompson is now being called the best shooting guard in the game. Which, when considering that Stephen Curry is definitely the best point guard in the game, means that, except for the dopey nickname they carry (the Splash Brothers — hint: Here's a place for a trade up, Warriors!) they are ready for anybody not playing in the paint for the foreseeable future.

The East Bay has not seen a basketball title since the time of skin-tight short shorts for men, but with a number one ranking heading into the New Year, it may be time to look for something special once again (a title, not the booty shorts). The Oakland Raiders also looked to trade up in 2014. Of course, moving from ghastly to merely lousy doesn't totally fit our thesis, but there is no question that the Dennis Allen Experience needed to close early. Fired after four games, including losses on multiple continents, the Raiders were the last team in the National Football League to win a game this season. They are now on a bit of a roll, having hired an interim coach who is winning just enough to probably screw them out of a worthwhile draft choice, but since the Oakland legacy is to fumble away draft opportunities, we'll call this one a wash.

Whether the team's re-upping for another year in the Coliseum can be considered a plus, it is a fact. The NFL just announced that nobody's moving to Los Angeles for 2015, and considering that the Raiders, St. Louis Rams, and San Diego Chargers were the teams being considered, we can conclude only that the city of Los Angeles is the big winner thus far. The Warriors are still looking like they are San Francisco bound after the next few seasons, so it would be great to wring a title run or two out of them before they go West. Major League Baseball, long ago, said it was convening a blue-ribbon committee to determine the future of baseball in the 510, but since the sport's commissioner retired after nearly thirty years without a solution, we recommend just handing the A's an actual blue ribbon from the Alameda County Fair and serving hot dogs on a stick all summer.

Being an East Bay sports fan is knowing the trade deadline is less a road block and more a yellow caution light saying, "better go like hell" — it's later than you think. ●

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11:00 1:35 4:10 6:45 10:25

Gambler (R)
12:05 2:35 5:05 7:50 8:25

Hobbit : Battle of the Five Armies (PG13)
12:15 3:25 7:20 9:20

Into the Woods (PG)
11:30 2:15

Night at the Museum : Secret of the Tomb (PG)
2:20 4:35 7:10 10:15

Exodus : Gods and Kings (PG13)
11:20 6:55

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Behind the bar at Adam Lamoreaux's The Beer Shed at the Dock. Bert Johnson

YEAR IN REVIEW

HOPPY NEW YEAR!

2014 was a great year for beer. We asked some of our favorite new, local breweries which beers you should be enjoying this season

By Anna Pulley

These days, it seems you can't throw a yoga mat out of a window without it landing on a newly opened beer joint. According to data from the Brewers Association, a nonprofit dedicated to independent American brewers, we're experiencing a craft beer renaissance in the United States, and the East Bay is unsurprisingly a ground zero for taprooms, breweries, and beer gardens serving local, regional, and international craft brews. Thanks to cheaper rents and prime real estate (many locations include large, outdoor spaces), brewers have been flocking to Oakland (and some to Berkeley, too) in droves, and show no signs of stopping anytime soon.

In November, the number of brewery licenses in the United States reached its highest ever — 4,500 — and more than 3,200 brewers are operating throughout the nation, with 2,000 more in planning stages. A new brewery opens every 1.5 days in America. And in terms of craft beer popularity, hops lovers can once again rejoice: India Pale Ales (IPAs) remained the most favored craft beer style, according to retail scan data from the Brewers Association. "[The] IPA is up 47 percent by volume and 49 percent by dollar sales," notes the BA website. "Additionally, the style was the number one entered category at the Great American Beer Festival."

In the East Bay, the beer scene continues to be, well, hopping. In 2014 alone, we saw the opening of beer havens such as The Hatch, Diving Dog Brewery, The Good Hop, Westbrae Biergarten, Plank, Lost and Found, The Beer Shed at The Dock, Woods Bar & Brewery, Ale Industries Jingletown Jazzroom, Hit Pollos Brewpub and Beat Lounge, and Perdition Smokehouse, which is technically a barbecue joint, but one that boasts forty taps, and puts beer in its sauce (called Brew-BQ, naturally). Not to mention other established favorites such as Beer Revolution, Telegraph, Mosy Brotzeit Lokal, Torpedo Room, Rosamunde, CommonWealth, The Trappist, and Hog's Apothecary.

"I'd guess a lot more people are discovering their love for beer and some are just jumping on a bandwagon they know nothing about," said Perdition Smokehouse owner Chuck Stilphen. "Currently, I like most of what I see and I'm looking forward to checking out more new breweries and beer bars as they come on line next year."

Because there are so many beers and beer gardens to choose from, we asked some of our favorite bar owners, tastemakers, and brewers for their recommendations this season.

Lost and Found

2040 Telegraph Ave., Oakland
LostAndFound510.com

Chosen best new beer garden in our "Best of the East Bay" issue in July, Lost and Found provides the best of all possible worlds. There's plenty of beer, of course — more than twenty varieties of (mostly local selections) on tap, with a good mix of European style varieties, cheap-ish IPAs, and local barrel-aged craft brews. There's also a red, a white, and a bubbly wine option available, lots of inventive, rotating food dishes to nosh on, and a lush, succulent-filled outdoor space with plenty of seating, a ping pong table, and a beanbag toss. Because the weather has been rather nasty of late, Lost and Found covered its outdoor space with an enormous tent, so you can still get your drink on without having to wear a poncho.

What to drink: Chef Dennis Yadroff (formerly of Haven and FuseBOX) told us that the food and drink menus will be changing in a few weeks, but that Lost and Found tries to keep its menu "as local and sustainable as possible." Yadroff likes the stronger, hoppier beers, such as The Smell IPA from the Social Kitchen. We'd also recommend one of Lost and Found's ciders, such as Two Rivers Gravenstein Hard Cidre, which has just a hint of sweetness.

What to eat: Try the Lost and Found rinds (crispy fried pig ears with five-spice salt and sambal aioli), which are delicious with one of the few rotating sour beers on the menu, such as the Woodfour Farmhouse Sour. Yadroff also maintains a vegetarian and vegan-friendly menu. He paired a special: a creamy vegetable polenta with Indian curry sauce with a Smell.

The Beer Shed at The Dock

95 Linden St., Oakland
TheDockOakland.com

"It's never been hard to sell a beer in this town, only now we have even more great choices," remarked Adam Lamoreaux, owner of the new-ish Beer Shed at The Dock and the founder of Linden Street Brewery next door. The Beer Shed is a partnership with Oakland native and chef James Syhabout (read Luke Tsai's review of The Dock, "A United Nations of Beer Bites," 7/22/14) and, though the beef menu is very much catered to beer drinking, it has a much more upscale vibe compared to the casual weekend beer scene you might be familiar with at Linden Street (which is also delightful).

"IPA is, hands down, the most popular style ordered by far," said Lamoreaux. "Sour beers are definitely gaining popularity, but nothing like IPAs. I'd say session beers are trending up as well."

What to drink: Lamoreaux is fond of brews by Drake's in San Leandro, Faction in Alameda, Magnolia in San Francisco, and Moonlight in Santa Rosa, the latter two of which he said are almost always on tap at the Shed. Moonlight's Crushed to Death is a particularly toasty and delicious dark larger blended with yeast now. Another recommendation was the crisp and happy Societe Pupil IPA.

What to eat: Pair Moonlight's Crushed to Death with the island style tuna poke, which comes with Sriracha aioli, sesame and taro shoestrings. Lamoreaux also mentioned that the seared New York steak with miso butter and togarashi goes well with IPAs.

Westbrae Biergarten

1250 Gilman St., Berkeley
WestbraeBiergarten.com

This Berkeley establishment opened quietly in June, and thanks to its frequently rotating NorCal-based brews and relaxed family environment (with beanbag toss and a small basketball hoop for the kids), it's no surprise that Westbrae made our "Best of the East Bay" list for top outdoor drinking spot this year. According to Joel DiGiorgio, the buyer for Westbrae, East Bay Spice Co., and the upcoming Tiger Lilly (slated to open in North Berkeley on January 14), "the local and national craft beer scenes seem to be embracing the classic West Coast-style ales and lagers, along with lesser-known styles such as session beers, single-hop ales, and sours coming to the forefront over the past two years." DiGiorgio also noted that Westbrae goes through "a ton of cider each day."

What to drink: DiGiorgio pointed to the widespread appeal of Berliner Weisse and Gose ales, as well as Citizen Citra hopped Farmhouse Ale from Baritone Brewing in Novato, the House IPA from Berryessa Brewing in Winters, and the Hella Lite Session IPA from Altamont Beer Works in Livermore. In terms of ciders, DiGiorgio likes 1976, which is "semi-sweet and delicate," the dry and bold Cidre Noir, and the semi-sweet Blood Orange Tangerine.

What to eat: Nosh on tri-tip sandwiches from Berkeley favorite Pedro's Brazil Café, as well as "flying pigs" (chicken nuggets wrapped in bacon) and crispy beef empanadas.

Woods Bar and Brewery

1701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland
WoodsBeer.com

One of the newest breweries to hit the Oakland scene is Woods Bar and Brewery, which doesn't just serve your typical West Coast brews. As owner Jim Woods told the *Express* in September, beers at Woods "defy expectations." That means beer that's caffeinated (i.e. their MateVeza IPA, which is infused with yerba mate), beer made with no hops at all, and even beer inspired by Girl Scout cookies. The "garden" aspect is more of a cozy patio with an industrial aesthetic, but its Uptown locale makes for terrific people-watching, and the fireplaces keep patrons toasty on chilly winter evenings.

What to drink: According to Woods' brewer William Bostwick, they "rarely make the same beer twice — it's one of the fun and exciting things about brewing such small batches: each beer is unique, and as fresh as it gets!" Bostwick recommends that beer lovers try Rootstock, a collaboration with the San Francisco Homebrewers Guild. "It's a seasonal Belgian Golden that tastes like fresh-tilled earth and blooming clover pollen, spicy bright from grassy Styrian Golding hops and meaty sweet from the addition of thirty pounds of yams." We have noted a distinct lack of yams in beer brewing. We're glad someone is rectifying this. A few others to try are Black Denim, a "rich and roasty imperial stout," and Santa, a holiday red ale that Bostwick describes as "smooth as a reindeer coat, soothing as a fur-lined cap, aglow as Rudolph's schnozz with hearth-side warmth and mellow sweetness like caramel-covered cherries and warm plum wine."

What to eat: Empanadas from El Porteño (you might have sampled some at the weekly farmers market in Old Oakland) are the only noshable item at Woods, but luckily, they are delicious. Try the Carne (grass-fed ground beef onions, green olives, raisins, and cage-free hard-boiled eggs) or the Champiñones (local seasonal mushrooms sautéed with shallots, aged parmesan, and crème fraîche).

Perdition Smokehouse

2050 University Ave., Berkeley
PerditionBBQ.com

Heaping portions of tenderly slow-braised meat (even the braised greens are half meat!), a cozy outdoor patio, and an ever-changing tap list are reasons this barbecue restaurant is among our favorite beer gardens to open this year. "The beer selection at Perdition is strong in the small local and American brewers," said owner Chuck Stilphen. "My other places — The Trappist, Provisions, Mikkeller Bar, and ØL Cafe & Bottleshop — rely much more on European brewers." Though many of the beers right now have names that are vaguely or explicitly menacing — Pumpkin Death, Shallow Grave, Shark Attack — we assure you they are the most refreshing "threats" you'll ever receive.

What to drink: "Right now, out the forty we have on tap at Perdition, some of my favorites are HenHouse Little Chicken, Fort Point KSA, Tahoe Mountain Hop Dragon, and Cellarmaker's Tiny Dankster," said Stilphen. We'd also recommend Faction's Blitzen Triple IPA and the aptly named Christmas Bomb by Prairie Artisan, a spicy imperial stout with a whopping 11.5 percent ABV.

What to eat: Pair your American brew with slices of the decadent and fatty brisket, braised greens, and, of course, the mac 'n cheese. ●

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***Econojam Records Store**, 2519 Telegraph Ave
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Pacific East Mall, 3288 Pierce St
Richmond Arts Center, 2540 Barrett Ave
Richmond Museum, 400 Nevin Ave

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Rasputin Music, 15590 Hesperian Blvd
San Lorenzo Library, 16032 Hesperian Blvd
Sweet Fingers, 464 E 14th St

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Tenants' rights advocate James Vann says the city needs to do more to prevent displacement. Bert Johnson

YEAR IN REVIEW

OAKLAND READIES FOR HOUSING BOOM

The city has set the stage for major development in West Oakland, Chinatown, and beyond — but activists say officials have failed to prioritize affordable housing.

By Sam Levin

By every measure, demand for housing in Oakland is high. From November 2013 to November 2014, the asking price for homes in the city jumped 13.4 percent, according to real estate company Trulia. And MPF Research, a firm that tracks rental data, recently reported that over the last year, rents in the city jumped 9.1 percent, giving Oakland the highest apartment rent growth in the country. (San Francisco rents increased 7.4 percent.)

More people want to live in Oakland, and city leaders say that the key to keeping housing prices affordable is to make sure there's enough supply to meet the demand. The city added roughly 3,000 new units between 2010 and 2014, and over the last year, the city council has set the stage for major construction throughout Oakland with the passage of three neighborhood-specific plans. The proposals function as detailed blueprints for future development.

In 2014, the council approved the West Oakland Specific Plan, the Broadway-Valdez District Specific Plan (covering Broadway between Grand Avenue and Interstate 580) and the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan. The area plans established specific land use and transportation objectives for the long-term build-out of the neighborhoods. The plans were designed to incentivize developers to move forward with housing, office, and retail projects and propose new ones in target areas. Each area plan came with an accompanying environmental impact report (EIR), which is a huge benefit for developers, because it allows them to follow the guidelines of the pre-approved neighborhood plans instead of having to complete the costly public review process of individual, project-specific EIRs.

But while city leaders say that the development of new housing — especially projects that increase density around transportation hubs — is critical to Oakland's future, tenants rights groups have questioned whether officials have done enough to prioritize affordable housing and curb the displacement of existing low-income residents.

Heated debates about gentrification have dominated the discussions leading up to the passage of each plan, especially the West Oakland and Lake Merritt ones, with critics arguing that the plans will accelerate the influx of higher-income residents to the East Bay. As a result, opponents said, rents will continue to skyrocket and the targeted neighborhoods will become unaffordable for many. Although 2014 was in some ways a productive year for tenants' rights in Oakland — with the city adopting two measures aimed at curbing mistreatment by landlords — activists worry that pro-tenant reforms have not kept pace with the speed of gentrification.

"We need to make sure that we do protect the existing housing for the people who are presently here," said James Vann, co-founder of the Oakland Tenants Union. "We're all in favor of new developments, but we don't want the new housing to result in displacement."

The Broadway-Valdez plan, adopted in June, is largely focused on building a strong retail corridor along Broadway. In addition to calling for new commercial and office space and a new hotel, that plan includes the creation of 1,800 housing units in the area over the next 25 years.

The West Oakland Specific Plan (WOSP), adopted in July, covers four areas — 7th Street,

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3rd Street, San Pablo Avenue, and Mandela Parkway/West Grand Avenue — and calls for roughly 2,300 new housing units around the West Oakland BART station, 1,350 new housing units in mixed-use projects along the commercial streets, and up to 1,330 new housing units in select residential areas.

Finally, the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan, passed earlier this month, covers a roughly one-half mile radius around the Lake Merritt BART station — a 315-acre plot that includes Chinatown and Laney College. This plan establishes a goal of 4,900 new housing units.

While the city has designed the area-specific plans to avoid any direct displacement — generally targeting developments on vacant and underutilized properties and sites — advocates argue that the plans lack strong provisions to support low-income residents. That's because the city opted not to integrate into the proposals any specific affordable housing requirements for developers through zoning or other means.

"Within the Chinatown area, while there is some affordable housing, it's not enough to accommodate all the residents who want to stay here," said Alvina Wong, lead community organizer with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), an Oakland-based advocacy group. Wong noted that lots of families currently living in the area of the Lake Merritt plan already spend 50 to 80 percent of their monthly income on rent. "As prices go up, they're definitely going to get pushed out."

APEN unsuccessfully lobbied the city to include in the Lake Merritt plan a requirement that developers of large projects pay a "community benefits" fee that would fund affordable housing or other neighborhood amenities.

Wong also argued that, considering Oakland's rising popularity and the demand for new housing, the city has been unnecessarily hesitant to pressure developers into providing community benefits. "There's no way that adding more policy is going to scare developers away," she said.

Supporters of the area plans have defended the lack of low-income housing mandates by arguing that affordable housing requirements and tenants' rights policies belong in citywide ordinances — not in neighborhood plans. Placing burdens on developers only in certain neighborhoods would discourage projects in the very areas where the city hopes to attract growth, the plans' backers say.

"The concern was not to single out a neighborhood, but to have a citywide strategy," said Mayor-Elect Libby Schaaf. "I'm very focused for the upcoming year on strategies to avoid displacement."

The city is moving forward with a plan to implement so-called "impact fees," in which developers would have to put money toward a fund that could support affordable housing, transportation projects, and infrastructure improvements. But that effort is just getting off the ground, with the city earlier this month approving a $1.1 million study on impact fees with the goal of approving the recommendations of that research in early 2016.

"The benefits of that study are years down the road," said Vann of the Tenants Union, adding, "An impact fee doesn't produce housing. It gets money contributed to a fund."

Schaaf said she's also exploring potential opportunities to apply affordable housing protections to existing properties, possibly by creating financial incentives for landlords to convert their units into ones that will remain affordable in the long-term. She said she also wants to create a better data system to analyze housing trends and the effectiveness of certain policies.

The mayor-elect also argued that because so many people are moving to Oakland, development is inevitable and that the area plans are a way to establish guidelines that ensure smart growth. "We cannot build a wall around our city. People are discovering our awesomeness — long overdue," Schaaf said. "Oakland cannot sell its soul for growth, nor does it have to."

That growth has already begun. According to data from Rachel Flynn, director of the city's planning and building department, in fiscal year 2013-14, Oakland added more than 760 units of new housing — roughly 73 percent of which was considered affordable. And more than 640 units (roughly 60 percent affordable) are currently under construction. In addition, nearly forty major housing projects are in the pipeline, representing more than 11,000 units, the majority of which are on track to be market-rate. In West Oakland, a number of housing developments are moving forward because of the passage of the WOSP, Flynn said.

Adding new market-rate housing is crucial, Flynn said, arguing that without higher-priced units, developers will buy up existing properties in Oakland, spruce them up, and convert them to housing that's no longer affordable. She noted that between now and 2020, Oakland's population is projected to grow by 35,000 people to a total of roughly 440,000.

Regarding concerns about potential displacement, Flynn added, "There are a lot of laws and practices in place to protect people and to ensure that they can always afford to live in decent housing."

In November, Schaaf and other councilmembers who have supported the West Oakland and Lake Merritt plans did vote in favor of a so-called "tenant protection ordinance" — a victory for housing advocacy groups, which have often struggled to pass pro-tenant legislation through the council. The ordinance, proposed by Councilmember Dan Kalb and backed by advocacy group Causa Justa/Just Cause, prohibits a wide range of harassing behaviors by landlords, such as threatening to report undocumented tenants to immigration officials or verbally or physically threatening residents.

Earlier this year, the council also agreed to adopt a policy aimed at limiting landlords' abuse of a law that allows property owners to pass the costs of "capital improvements" — meaning renovations — on to tenants in rent-controlled units. Activists said that landlords have pushed tenants out by forcing them to pay exorbitantly high fees under the guise of capital improvements.

The new policy caps all rent increases, including those for capital improvement costs, at 10 percent per year and 30 percent over five years. Landlords are also banned from passing more than 70 percent of capital improvement costs onto tenants; in the past, property owners could require residents to cover all of the costs.

Brendan Darrow, staff attorney and clinical supervisor at the East Bay Community Law Center, noted that more than half of Oakland residents are renters and that tenants' rights reforms can go a long way in limiting the potential harms of gentrification and development. "Any time that the city government recognizes how difficult it is for tenants in Oakland, that's a great sign." ●

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CPIntl.org

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Give Me Shelter Cat Rescue

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GiveMeShelterSF.org

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Muttville Senior Dog Rescue

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Muttville.org

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Norml

NORML works to legalize the responsible use of marijuana by adults and serves as an advocate for marijuana consumers nationwide.

NORML.org

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Alameda County Meals on Wheels

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FeedingSeniors.org

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Berkeley Playhouse

Berkeley Playhouse, at the Julia Morgan Theatre, has a mission to engage, inspire, and entertain. Berkeley Playhouse is an award-winning theatre company specializing in musicals for the entire family, theatre training, and serving 25,000 patrons and 400 students a year.

BerkeleyPlayHouse.org

This listing is sponsored by **Sun, Light and Power**

51Oakland

51Oakland's mission is to inspire student learning, creativity, hard work, and self-esteem by strengthening the role of music and arts [illegible] in Oakland Public Schools.

51Oakland.org

This listing is sponsored by **Yoshi's Oakland**

Alameda County Community Food Bank

We provide food and hope to 1 in 5 Alameda County residents. This year the Food Bank will provide the 23.5 million meals through 240 food pantries and other community organizations to people in need.

ACCFB.org

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East Bay SPCA

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EastBaySPCA.org

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Wild Oakland

Providing free environmental education to urbanites. Many people have very limited knowledge of nature, a few of its creatures or the flora and fauna that share space with them.

WildOakland.org

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Oakland Dog Owners Group

ODOG (the Oakland Dog Owners Group) advocates for more dog parks and off-leash space and to make Oakland and the nearby East Bay/San Francisco area more dog friendly.

ODogParks.org

This listing is sponsored by **Luka's Oakland**

Berkeley Public School Gardening & Cooking Program

We offer students gardening and cooking education that supports learning and values in tasting their labor and vegetables, getting physical activity, and knowing where their food comes from.

BerkeleySchools.net/rgp

This listing is sponsored by **East Bay Spice Company**

Ecology Center

Our mission is to inspire and build a sustainable, healthy and just future for the East Bay, California and beyond. We [illegible] the [illegible] of sustainability into everyday practice.

EcologyCenter.org

Americans for Safe Access

Ensures safe and legal access to marijuana for therapeutic uses and research using public education and direct advocacy. ASA also provides legal support and uses impact litigation to protect and expand patients' rights. ASA brings the patient's voice to the table, and shifts the debate to the real concerns of patients' legal access to medicine and patients' civil rights.

SafeAccessNow.org

This listing is sponsored by **420 MD and Legionnaire Saloon**

Girls Inc. of Alameda County

We inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold through vital educational programs, particularly those in high-risk, underserved areas. We serve the whole girl and her family by providing on-site mental health counseling as well. We believe generations are transformed when girls are equipped with knowledge, information and confidence. They grow up strong, smart and bold.

GirlsInc-Alameda.org

This listing is sponsored by **The Star on Grand and [illegible] Counseling Center**

Autism Speaks

We are the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for their needs.

AutismSpeaks.org

This listing is sponsored by **Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto**

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

The cause of MS is still unknown — scientists believe the disease is triggered by as-yet-unidentified environmental factor(s) in a person who is genetically predisposed to respond. We inform about options for managing symptoms, treatments, coordination of healthcare, and living well with MS.

NationalMSSociety.org/CAN

This listing is sponsored by **The Trappist**

Citizen Schools

We partner with underserved public middle schools to provide a longer school day, during which we engage volunteers from the community to teach our students their professional and personal expertise.

CitizenSchools.org

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My Yute Soccer

By providing high quality, free soccer games for children ages 7–12 and a middle program for teens, My Yute Soccer actively engages children, allowing them access to a diverse social, economic and cultural environment with an opportunity to experience the beautiful game.

MyYuteSoccer.org

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SOS/ Meals on Wheels

Service Opportunities for Seniors/ Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals daily to homebound seniors living in Castro Valley, Hayward, Oakland, San Lorenzo, and San Leandro. We need volunteers to help us help seniors! (510) 582 1260.

SOSMealsonWheels.org

This listing is sponsored by **Berkeley Italian Kitchen**

St. Anthony Foundation

Our mission is to feed, heal, shelter, clothe and lift the spirits of those in need, and create a society in which all people flourish. We commit to providing the poor with basic needs and services as a gateway to reclaiming their sense of dignity and progressing toward stability.

StAnthonySF.org

This listing is sponsored by **Tasty Vapor**

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center

The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center (WDDC) welcomes women and children to move from the streets to a home by providing counseling, case management services, daily support groups, a comprehensive children's program, a variety of referral services, and a transitional housing program.

WomensDropIn.org

This listing is sponsored by **The Savvy Rest Natural Bedroom**

Habitot Children's Museum

We are the most popular and longest-running children's hands-on discovery museum in the East Bay. Our learning center is where young children are the "big kids" — exploring the arts and culture in a safe setting designed especially for small hands and bodies and growing minds.

Habitot.org

This listing is sponsored by **Urban Mattress**

Berkeley Free Clinic

We were founded as a "street medicine" clinic that quickly has served countless thousands in a variety of ways during its 40-year history. Fees have never been charged for any services, materials, medications or supplies provided.

BerkeleyFreeClinic.org

St. Vincent de Paul, Alameda County

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a nonprofit organization that provides direct assistance to those men, women and children in Alameda County. They provide hot meals, food pantry, resource center, books, clothing, job training, laundry, help desk and more.

svdp-alameda.org

This listing is sponsored by **Dr. Sharon Albright, DDS**

Marine Mammal Center

We are a veterinary research hospital and educational center dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals — primarily elephant seals, harbor seals, and California sea lions. Since 1975 we've rescued and treated more than 18,000 marine mammals.

MarineMammalCenter.org

East Bay Food Not Bombs

We serve Berkeley a lunch at People's Park, the [illegible], we give away our surplus food and fresh picked organic produce [illegible] Park in Oakland. We work in solidarity with other progressive groups at countless demonstrations, cultural events and gatherings over the years.

EBFNB.org

This listing is sponsored by **Ashkenaz Music & Dance Center**

Operation Dignity

We are a veteran-led, service-oriented provider serving the homeless veterans and displaced populations of Alameda County. Our goal is to provide safe housing, nutritious meals, and a full array of services so they can begin their rehabilitation process. Our goal is to help veterans rediscover hope and provide the tools leading to live a self-sufficient and stable life.

OperationDignity.org

This listing is sponsored by **Harborside Health Center** and **Alex Harper Law**

Asian Art Museum

We lead a diverse, global audience in discovering the distinctive materials, aesthetics and intellectual achievements of Asian art and cultures, and to serve as a bridge of understanding between Asia and the United States and between the diverse cultures of Asia.

AsianArt.org

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YEAR IN REVIEW

SCORE IT EVEN

It was an up and down year for politics and the environment.

By Robert Gammon

On January 1, Drakes Estero will become the first marine wilderness on the West Coast. Robert Gammon/File photo

This year was a roller-coaster ride for political and environmental issues in the East Bay and throughout the state and nation. There were numerous highs and lows, winners and losers. Here is our list of major victories and defeats in 2014.

Politics/Public Affairs

Victories

Richmond progressives. Perhaps the biggest political win in the East Bay in 2014 was the overwhelming victory by Richmond progressives over Chevron in the November election. The big oil company pumped at least $3 million into a campaign to retake control of Richmond City Hall, but was completely shut out. Members of the Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) — Gayle McLaughlin, Jovanka Beckles and Eduardo Martinez — won all three of the available four-year city council seats. And Tom Butt, who is not a member of the RPA but often votes with progressives on key issues, soundly defeated Chevron-backed candidate Nat Bates for mayor.

Berkeley soda tax. Berkeley's victory over Big Soda was nearly as significant as Richmond's win over Big Oil. Beverage companies poured at least $2.4 million into the campaign to defeat Measure D, Berkeley's soda tax proposal, but lost in a landslide, 23.8 percent to 76.2 percent.

Labor and the minimum wage. Labor groups scored a big win in Oakland with the passage of Measure FF, which will raise the minimum wage in the city to $12.25 an hour, beginning in March. FF garnered a whopping 81.8 percent of the vote.

Labor and the Oakland City Council. Organized labor also garnered two important victories in Oakland City Council races with the election of Abel Guillen in District Two and Annie Campbell Washington in District Four. Labor groups spent heavily on Guillen and Campbell Washington, who had been trailing in the pre-election polls to the more moderate Dana King and Jill Broadhurst, respectively.

Libby Schaaf. Councilmember Schaaf was not the most progressive candidate in the Oakland mayor's race (Dan Siegel was), but she nonetheless took several progressive stances on key issues during the campaign. For example, she came out early in favor of Measure FF and strongly opposed a watered-down minimum wage measure pushed by the chamber of commerce. She has also been a staunch supporter of good government policies, including the strengthening the city's Public Ethics Commission. And she won big on November 4, trouncing Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, 63.2 percent to 36.8 percent in ranked-choice tabulations.

The kill switch. In 2012 and 2013, Oakland and other large cities were in the grip of a robbery epidemic, spurred mostly by the theft of smartphones. Because of public pressure applied by San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon and other political leaders, including Oakland Councilmember Dan Kalb and Mayor Jean Quan, the state legislature passed a historic law this year, mandating that all smartphones come equipped with kill switches that render them inoperable when stolen.

Crime. Not surprisingly, the number of robberies dropped significantly in Oakland this year — declining 34 percent through mid-December. Oakland police said that 75 percent of robberies in 2013 involved smartphones. In addition to the kill-switch law, Oakland police deserve credit for focusing their efforts on curbing the city's robbery problems.

Oakland tenants. Oakland apartment dwellers won two key victories in 2014. First in March, the city approved a new law that limits rent hikes related to building capital improvements to 10 percent a year, with a cap of 30 percent over five years. Then in November, the Oakland City Council officially approved the Tenant Protection Ordinance, which protects tenants from landlord harassment.

Dan Kalb. The North Oakland councilmember had an extremely productive year. Not only did Kalb spearhead the two tenant laws and play a key role in the success of the kill switch legislation, but city voters approved his two good-government ballot measures, CC and DD, which strengthened the city's Public Ethics Commission and established independent redistricting in Oakland, respectively.

Protests. Although some groups of demonstrators during the recent anti-police-brutality protests in Oakland and Berkeley have unfortunately engaged in acts of violence, vandalism, and looting, most of the protest participants so far have staged peaceful and nonviolent actions. And the black-organized protests — shutting down the West Oakland BART station, #BlackBrunch in Rockridge, and the Millions March — have been extraordinarily impressive.

Defeats

Police brutality. The decisions by grand juries in Ferguson, Missouri, and Staten Island, New York, to not bring charges against white police officers who killed unarmed black men showed definitively that our criminal system is badly broken and desperately needs reform.

Arbitration. And the decision this past summer by a local arbitrator who ordered the Oakland Police Department to rehire Officer Robert Roche, the cop who launched a tear gas canister at people who were trying to help Iraq War veteran Scott Olsen during a protest, showed that the OPD arbitration system is broken as well. Federal Judge Thelton Henderson deserves credit for launching an investigation into the situation.

Displacement. The extreme housing shortage in the East Bay, coupled with the mass exodus of residents from ultra-expensive San Francisco, has sent rents and home prices soaring in Oakland and Berkeley. And profiteers have made matters worse by making it nearly impossible for longtime local residents to afford homes here.

Money in politics. For reasons that have yet to be explained, organized labor joined with Republicans this summer in Sacramento to scuttle a proposed law that would have required secretive political groups to do a better job of disclosing their donors. It was a big loss for transparency in politics.

The CPUC. This year's judge-shopping scandal proved that the California Public Utilities Commission is the most corrupt public agency in the state. Emails revealed that CPUC commissioners and staffers had worked behind the scenes to help PG&E officials in their efforts to replace judges with ones that would be friendly to PG&E — a direct conflict of interest for the CPUC, which is supposed to regulate PG&E.

Environment

Winners

Point Reyes National Seashore. On January 1, 2015, Point Reyes will be home to the first-ever federally protected marine wilderness on the West Coast. And we can thank the US Supreme Court for its rejection of an appeal filed by the Drakes Bay Oyster Company — a business that had stubbornly refused to leave Point Reyes, despite the fact that its lease had expired in 2012. The oyster company is scheduled to vacate the national parkland on December 31.

Measure R. A group of anti-growth activists attempted to gut the City of Berkeley's plan to increase density in downtown by a putting forth Measure R, an initiative they claimed would make buildings more environmentally friendly. But environmental groups rightly warned that the ballot measure would, in fact, have devastated Berkeley's attempts to combat climate change, because blocking development in urban areas only spurs more suburban sprawl. Berkeley voters, thankfully, sided with the environment and voted down Measure R, 74.1 percent to 25.9 percent.

Plastic bags. In September, California became the first state in the nation to ban single-use plastic bags when Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 270 into law. The state law followed bans previously enacted by cities and counties throughout California.

Eucalyptus. In late November the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) decided to scuttle its wrongheaded plan to clearcut eucalyptus trees in the East Bay hills and instead adopted a proposal to selectively thin eucalyptus groves. FEMA rightly concluded that clearcutting would have harmed species that depend on eucalyptus habitat.

Redwoods in Richardson Grove. Environmental groups won a victory when Caltrans quietly announced in early December that it was withdrawing its plan to widen Highway 101 through Richardson Grove State Park — a proposal that threatened old growth redwoods in the area. Caltrans, however, may rekindle its road widening proposal in 2015.

Marguerite Young. And environmentalists scored a big win when Marguerite Young, a progressive, was elected to a seat on the East Bay MUD board of directors, defeating moderate incumbent Katy Foulkes. Young supports full federal protection of the Mokelumne River — the East Bay's primary water source. Foulkes voted against such protections and supported a proposal to build a giant new dam on the Mokelumne.

Losers

Knowland Park. In November, the Oakland City Council voted 6-2 to move forward with plans by the Oakland Zoo to expand further into Knowland Park and destroy additional natural habitat. Opponents noted the cruel irony of the zoo's plans: It will plow under endangered species habitat in order to build an artificial exhibit in honor of species that no longer live here because of habitat loss.

Bees. Bee populations have been in a freefall throughout the United States, and it's becoming clear that the increased use pesticides nationwide is causing the collapse. Yet the federal and state governments continue to green light the use of more pesticides, rather than restrict them, even though the loss of bees threatens our food supply.

Fracking. There's not only strong evidence that the oil- and natural gas-extraction method pollutes groundwater, but there's also a growing consensus that it triggers earthquakes. In fact, the State of New York recently enacted a moratorium on fracking because of such issues. Yet Governor Jerry Brown has steadfastly refused to support a moratorium in California, for reasons that he has yet to fully explain.

The giant water tunnels. Brown also continues to tout his destructive plan to build two giant water tunnels underneath the fragile Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, despite widespread opposition from environmentalists. Brown has styled himself as an environmental governor, but he'll never actually be one until he changes his positions on the tunnels and fracking. ●

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

Kate Rhoades and Maysoun Wazwaz of *Congratulations Pine Tree.* Bert Johnson

CULTURE SPY

PINE AWAY

Local podcast *Congratulations Pine Tree* aims to radicalize the Bay Area arts scene.

By AJ Kiyoizumi

Congratulations Pine Tree is not, as you might expect, a Christmas-related service or a hipster air freshener. Rather it's a weekly podcast, created by 2014 Mills MFA graduate Kate Rhoades and Mills College Art Museum program manager Maysoun Wazwaz, that has been touted as "The Bay Area's number one arts and culture podcast." Even though the hosts are the ones humorously supplying that accolade, the podcast's endearing mix of silliness and local cultural critique have earned it much popularity in the six months it has been running.

Both Wazwaz and Rhoades are heavily active in the Bay Area arts world. In addition to her work at the Mills Art Museum, Wazwaz has worked in the arts sector for fourteen years, previously as the exhibitions program manager at Southern Exposure in San Francisco. She is also on the curatorial committee at Root Division.

And even though Rhoades, an Ohio native, has only lived in the Bay Area for about three years, she tries to make up for her newness by "overcompensating with civic pride," she said in an interview.

One of the goals that Wazwaz and Rhoades have for *Congratulations Pine Tree* is to interview every artist in Oakland (So far, they've completed eighteen episodes). They have spoken with well-known names in the local visual arts world, such as Kevin Chen, an artist who worked as program director for San Francisco's Intersection for the Arts for more than a decade.

Before its recent round of restructuring and layoffs, Intersection was one of the nonprofits that Wazwaz and Rhoades admired items for its mix of visual arts programming and its community presence. That balance isn't an easy one to achieve, especially as housing prices continue to strain artists and art spaces on both sides of the bay.

Gentrification is a commonly discussed theme on the show, maybe second to the importance of donating to the Working Artists and the Greater Economy (WAGE), a nonprofit that advocates for sustainable wages for artists across the country. Other segments — such as when the hosts arbitrarily debate Los Angeles' merits over San Francisco — betray their uncertainties about the future of the Bay Area arts scene. "Being able to create your own narrative of a crisis makes you feel less powerless, even if you aren't even doing anything," said Rhoades.

Details

Listen to the podcast at CongratulationsPineTree.Blogspot.com, or on iTunes.com.

The show's honesty is part of what makes it relevant to everyone, not just the insider-only blue-chip art world. Most of all, Wazwaz and Rhoades want to create a network that goes beyond the usual artist pool. "I want to talk to the favorite [artists], the people making macrame in their burner trucks and mosaicing on the sidewalk, every one of them," said Rhoades in November's "Episode 12: Alcatraz, Elections, and Bison."

It may seem aberrant to have an audio-only podcast about visual culture, but because much of their audience so far is composed of artists, administrators, or curators (or more commonly, a hybrid) Wazwaz and Rhoades contend that most listeners have seen the shows they discuss. They also contextualize their discussions succinctly. Wazwaz also said that the conversations mostly revolve around ideas that are tangential to exhibitions rather than specific artworks. For the shows they do talk about in more depth, Rhoades said she relies on her "poetic descriptions." For example, she likened the recent Markus Schinwald show at the Wattis Institute in San Francisco to "spider porn."

In the beginning, Wazwaz was uncertain how to balance her podcast voice with her professional work. On the first couple of episodes earlier this summer she would reluctantly only state her first name, "as if I were Madonna, or something," she said.

They also thought podcasts seemed more "serious," a notion they now laugh at, because the show's charm is its humor. The conversations are fairly serious, Wazwaz said, but the humor stems from their rapport and conversational approach. "We talk a lot of shit to each other," she said.

"Humor in the art world is an interesting idea to me," Rhoades said, noting its frequent use as a coping mechanism. Talking about blue-chip galleries and museum shows can be very humorless, the opposite of *CPT*'s personality. "Comedy maintains that magic and secrecy that art has completely lost. I feel like the magic that art had is degraded by the institution and the commercial art world," Rhoades said.

Rhoades and Wazwaz cite admiration for and inspiration from Nia King's podcast *We Want the Airwaves*, which focuses on queer artists of color in the Bay Area. *CPT* addresses overlapping issues, such as changing demographics and the importance of local politics, but also includes broader takes on the art world, its curators, administrators, funding, and direction. These conversations are easy for the two to lead, because of their wide networks on both sides of the bay.

"The whole art-world experience can be very alienating for a lot of people," said Wazwaz. "You go to a show, you've got no idea what anything means, you freak out and think, 'I'm supposed to love this, but I don't.' We are trying to bring that to the forefront and say it's okay to not know what's going on." *Congratulations Pine Tree* is a resource for those who want to question the art world — and the rest of the world — and to make it better.

Rhoades and Wazwaz are two of the too-few figures in the Bay Area who actively question the status quo of the art establishment. They aren't afraid to criticize the Ai Weiwei show on Alcatraz and nor do they want to flock to the "money orgy" of high-end art fairs such as Art Basel Miami Beach. Just like brutally honest art criticism, their frequent political assertions can be polarizing, but every episode is not complete without Rhoades begging for listeners to call, text, or tweet to participate. They are huge proponents of individuals embedding themselves in local politics. As Rhoades said in "Episode 12": "If we've got fucking goddamn fascist bastards running our fuckin' cities, it's gonna be real hard to make art." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

EAST BAY EXPRESS

LOCAL MAKER spotlight

LANDMARK INK

Mette Cuetara is the artist behind Landmark Ink creating elegant brush and ink drawings of iconic local landmarks like the Tribune Building and the Grand Lake Theatre. She hand silkscreens these onto soft cotton tees and also hand paints the images for her line of greeting cards. "My dad was an architect," she says, "and I inherited his love of buildings and history. These images show my appreciation for the beauty and history of Oakland and the whole Bay Area."

An excellent gift for locals or those not lucky enough to live here!

See her website

LANDMARKINK.COM

to see the landmarks

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

ATTRACTIONS

New Year's 2015 [illegible]

New Year's [illegible]

Starry Night New Year's [illegible]

Zoolights [illegible]

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

"Gordon, Burn" New Year's Eve 2015 [illegible]

Champagne [illegible]

[illegible]

Friday Nights at OMCA [illegible]

[illegible]

NYE 2015 [illegible]

NYE [illegible]

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

Holiday Spa Day [illegible]

[illegible]

New Year's Eve Yoga [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Yoga and Meditation [illegible]

KIDS

Art Workshop with MOCHA [illegible]

Game Day [illegible]

New Year's Eve Day Party [illegible]

Saturday Storytime [illegible]

Toddler Storytime [illegible]

Toddler Time [illegible]

Video Game Programming for Kids [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Winter Magic Camp [illegible]

[illegible]

LGBT

LGBTQ Peer Support Group [illegible]

Transgender [illegible]

PETS

Community Veterinary Clinic [illegible]

Community Veterinary Clinic [illegible]

[illegible]

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

PICKS

OAK NYE. 2015

This New Year's Eve, Oakland's Top Ten Social party promoters are ready to really outdo themselves. They've planned three elaborate events, each offering a different type of celebratory experience. For those looking for something fancy, they will be holding a prix fixe dinner party at modern Japanese restaurant Ozumo (2251 Broadway, Oakland) which will offer two additional pop-up bars for the night and a lineup of DJs including heyLove* and Sake One. Reservations are required for the four-course dinner, which costs $75 at the door. People who just want to dance can also pay $40 for admission. Those who don't want to be tied down to a table but still want great food should choose the OAK NYE Lungomare Ultimate Dinner Party. The event will offer a buffet of the restaurant's signature Italian dishes, as well as hors d'oeuvres. Lungomare's heated waterfront patio has couches to lounge on, while a lineup of DJs will spin in the two dance floors inside. The dinner and party requires reservations and costs $50 a person at the door, while tickets to only the party cost $40. (I think it's obvious what the best deal is.) And finally, those who already have dinner plans can cut out the food aspect altogether and go straight to Old Oakland's Parliament nightclub for the OAK NYE Lounge Party. This fiesta will shake the sleek party spot with hip-hop and R&B brought by DJs Davey D of Hard Knock Radio, Dave Denbels, who has backed up the parent of Def Poets, and Lady Ryan of The Social Life. Admission is $35, with opportunities for bottle service climbing up from there. Compared to fancy hotel and club parties happening in San Francisco, Top Ten Social's tasteful events are uber-affordable and will likely have a more enjoyable, intimate vibe. — *Sarah Burke*

Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. OAKNYE.com

Blackball Universe YouTag Party

Blackball Universe (1530 Madison St., Oakland) is a hole-in-the-wall that you want to crawl into. It's understated on the outside, with a nondescript door that leads up a narrow staircase. Inside, though, rooms covered in art flow into each other, leading back to a cozy bar decorated like an old speakeasy, with velvet cushions and all. It's the home of the Blackball Universe music label and artist collective, and also holds the studio of Blackball founder Xavier Dphrepaulezz. The charismatic, dapper musician performs as Fantastic Negrito, often drawing sidewalk crowds on First Fridays by delivering black roots music with a host of accompaniments. For the second year in a row, Dphrepaulezz will be inviting the public to join the Blackball family for a night of New Year's celebration and music. The party is called YouTag, because the walls will be covered in white paper and guests will be invited to scribble out their 2014 memories and 2015 resolutions. Markers, food, and drinks will all be supplied. All you need to bring is a creative willingness and the inclination to dance. The party is all ages and free, but donations are encouraged. — *S.B.*

Dec. 31, 7 p.m. BlackballUniverse.com

Mindful Overeating [illegible]

Holiday Assembly [illegible]

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Pinot Plus's [illegible]

The Vintage [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

Black Tie Experience [illegible]

2NITE Trivia Night [illegible]

[illegible]

A Family-Friendly New Year's [illegible]

[illegible]

New Year's Eve [illegible]

New Year's [illegible]

New Year's Eve [illegible]

NYE [illegible]

Speakeasy 2015 New Year's Eve [illegible]

[illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Lunar Cycles Lake Chabot Night Ride [illegible]

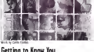
Hooping [illegible]

Oakland [illegible]

Oakland Walking Tour [illegible]

The People's Community Yoga [illegible]

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Work by Carlo Fanton

Getting to Know You

Collective Stories at Mercury 20 showcases small works by local artists that form a dynamic narrative

The concept behind *Collective Stories*, the current show at Mercury 20 (475 25th St., Oakland) is simple. It's a group show featuring small, affordable works by seventeen of the twenty artists that collectively own the space. Each participant is presenting a handful of pieces accompanied by a personal statement of reflection that reveals the inspiration behind his or her practice, or an anecdote that's meaningful to his or her artistic identity. The selection represents the space's communal character, with snippets of personal stories coming together to form a dynamic narrative and display. Of course, the salon-style show also functions as an art boutique for holiday shopping.

Some of the most stunning work in *Collective Stories* comes from Italy-raised artist Carlo Fanton, who intricately hand-cuts portraits out of black construction paper. In his series, he portrays saint-like female figures surrounded by Catholic iconography and social media symbols, suggestively conflating internet use and religious worship. With expert manipulation of negative space, Fanton cuts the paper into a net of interconnected diamonds that vary in tightness to reveal form, like a re-imagined stained-glass window.

Nick Dong's work also stands out, partly because he brought the largest contribution to the show with a composition of 28 enamel-covered graphite sketches. To create the dainty pieces, he archived his drawings under several layers of molten-hot glass that hardened into a smooth, enamel surface. Each drawing-turned-sculpture takes the shape of an antique frame, evoking old family portraits holding murky memories and captured moments. Most of Dong's usual work is bold, reflective metal sculpture that accentuates form rather than figure. ("Enlightening," his dazzling, immersive meditation simulator was installed at the gallery this past April, and more recently at Art Silicon Valley.) Although these small works aren't nearly as eye-grabbing, they offer a more immediately personal connection to the artist.

Ruth Tabancay's unconventional embroideries also offer subtle intrigue. For her "What Linens Know" series, she embroidered white vintage doilies, handkerchiefs, and tablecloths with coffee mug stains, wine spills, fallen flower petals, and chicken bones. The intention was to memorialize the actual uses of the decorative cloth, which her mother used to make at home, revealing its utilitarian history. In doing so, Tabancay dismantles the distinction between ornamentation and stain, finding the pleasing quality in accidental remnants of household life.

At the end of the show's run, Mercury 20 will be also be giving away original pieces by East Bay artists Julie Alvarado, Joanna Salska, Fernando Reyes, and Eric Bohr. Anyone who visits the gallery while the show is up can request a raffle ticket. Those who purchase art will receive five tickets. Other artists include Jo Ann Biagini, Kathleen King, Jill McLennan, PK Frenzell, KC Rosenberg, Charlie Milgrim, Mary Curtis Ratcliff, Leah Markee, Kerry Vander Meer, and Jann Nunn.

Free. Through Jan. 24. MercuryTwenty.com

— Sarah Burke

ART GALLERIES

9th St. between Broadway and Washington. Snapshot: 9th Street New Media Art Exhibition A free, public new media art and video featuring projected video works by Eric Colbert Johnson, Ellen Lake, Nathan Lynch, Kari Marboe, George Pfau, Jeffrey Augustine Songco, Doug Garth Williams. Curated by Lindsey Keebler at BLOCK Gallery. Fridays, Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 27. Free. BlockGallery.com. 9th St. between Broadway and Washington, Oakland.

Ames Gallery *A Look Back, An Collection: Celebrating 40 Years* Featuring works by Raymond Coins, Williams, Oakland, Mister Reuben, Homer Ames, David Marshall, J.B. Murray, Elijah Pierce, Jon Serl, Inez Nathaniel Walker and more. Through Dec. 31. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949, AmesGallery.com.

Café Cocotte. ReMIX iPhone portraits A mix bar of [illegible] and impression by iPhoneographer Tony DeMartin. Through Dec. 31, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 6540 Bay Street, Emeryville.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. Trace: Site Works by Lewis deSoto and Sonja Hinrichsen Both artists are featuring photographic series and lay-line impermanent land [illegible] of the landscape and reflect their deep reverence for nature. Through Jan. 29, 2015. Free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerritoContemporary.com.

City Limits Gallery. Making Space Through Jan. 10, 2015. Free. CityLimitsGallery.com. 300 Jefferson St., Oakland. 510-207-6997. CityLimitsGallery.com.

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter. *Art of Steel* Exhibit of large-format photographs shot at twilight by Tom Paiva exploring the renovation of the Bridge pieces in Shanghai, China. Daily. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-817-5700. MTC.ca.gov.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. 4th Annual Holiday Art Exhibit A wide selection of unique art and gifts from over 20 local and national artists in the country. Featured work includes paintings, scrapbook, drawings and other fine art and gift ideas. Through Dec. 27. Free. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

LoQuiVee Space. Ur Work by Leung Yi, Nan Babia, Pemie Sook, and Blaze Parker Daily. Free. 1526 Webster St., Oakland. 510-499-1700, LoQuiVee.com.

Lookylo (formerly lit&Kat). Look Again Solo show of John Wood's abstract, mixed-media drawings on paper. His work is a free-flowing canvas of gestural marks that stem from his intuitive exploration of the human form. Through Jan. 4, 2015. Free. 560 2nd St., Oakland.

Mamu Gallery. Mamas Of Wisdom Anna paintings and mixed media works by Berkeley artist Judy Saidel. Through Jan. 10, 2015. Free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-282-2336. MamuGallery.com.

Martin Luther King Jr. Girls Mama Girls Art Guild Winter Annex exhibition of work by 28 Berkeley-based artists. Through Feb. 27, 2015. Free. 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley.

Mercury 20 Gallery. Collective Stories: Small Works by Gallery Artists This show is designed to present local, affordable art so you can shop for that perfect gift for your list or for yourself. Through Jan. 24, 2015. Free. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-2785, MercuryTwenty.com.

Nomad Art Gallery. 518 All Stars Meet 50 artists from the East Bay personally for one 12 x 12 inch panel prepared by [illegible] Artspace. Through Feb. 18, 2015. Free. 1537 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-8968, [illegible].

Oakland Asian Cultural Center. [illegible]: Exhibit of woodcuts and paintings by the new artist-in-residence. Daily. 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Panoramic Framing. *Self Service: Paintings by Kate Leffler* Two month exhibit as part of Grand Avenue First Thursday artist receptions 6 Nov and 4 Dec from 6-9pm. Through Dec. 28. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. 3360 Grand Ave., Oakland, (510) 879-1911, www.PanoramicFraming.com.

modern mouse

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Pro Arts Gallery. *The Annual The Annual* is a juried exhibition of new work from the Bay Area as selected in 2015 by Dena Beard and Helena J. Keith. Through Jan. 18, 2015. Free. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

Ross Paper Scissors Collective. Breathe Easy 3 Group exhibition. Daily. 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-238-9171, RPSCollective.com.

SLATE contemporary. *Visual Language* [illegible] displays artists who incorporate written language within their compositions. The show includes six book artists, Danielle Wood, Tosia Emmons, Lucky Rapp, Catherine Courtenaye, Blair Bradshaw, and Silvia Poloto. Through Dec. 21. Free. 473 25th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible], SlateArtAndDesign.com.

[illegible] Lounge. Bay Area best: [illegible] Lindsay Hodge, and family collaborate on [illegible] shared [illegible]. Through Dec. 31. Free. 1727 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-984-3147. [illegible]

Tux Gallery. *Surface Movement* The works of Scott Parady and Jenny Bloomfield, both ceramic artists concentrating on surface aesthetics. Through Dec. 28, 12-5:30 p.m. Free. 1812 Fifth St., Berkeley, 510-540-8720, TuxGallery.com.

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. *Best Part of a Sun Sipping: Down Photographs by Eugene Richards.* Telegraph and book signing on Friday, Sept. 18, 5:30-7:15 p.m. Through Jan. 1, 2015. Free. 121 North Gate Hall, Berkeley, 510-642-3383, Journalism.Berkeley.edu.

Uptown District. *Saturday Stroll* A weekly component to Art Murmur, but with fewer galleries and more emphasis on the galleries. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 25th St. to Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Wheeler Hall. *Milton Revealed: Milton and Theatrically Collaborative* project to collect audiovisual materials related to John Milton and his work. Through Dec. 31. UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

More Listings Online
Find hundreds of up-to-date art listings at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

MUSEUMS

Bancroft Library. *Commemorating the Free Speech Movement 50th Anniversary* The exhibition [illegible] this pivotal campus activist movement through photographs, [illegible], publications, handbills, and other archival material in the University Archives and Bancroft [illegible] collections. Through May 30, 2015. Free. *California: Captured on Canvas* This exhibit portrays California both as a vast landscape in mountains, ocean and forests and as an [illegible] scene [illegible] by vastly different inhabitants. Scenes of Yosemite and the Gold Rush are included, along with [illegible] works such as [illegible] paintings by John Sutton of the Golden Gate Produce Market. Through Mar. 6, 2015. Free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

Doe Library. *Doing It, Doing It: A Century of Sex [Mis]Education in the USA* Exhibition on the history of sex education. Through Feb. 28, 2015. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley, 510-643-[illegible].

Exploratorium. *Traits of Life* A collection of exhibits and demonstrations [illegible] the fundamental [illegible] common to all living things. Daily. [illegible] Pier 15, San Francisco, 415-528-4360, Exploratorium.edu.

[illegible] in Mosaic Art. *California Mosaic Artists: Celebrating Diversity Through Mosaics* An ongoing group show. Daily. 5001 Shepherd St., Oakland, 510-437-8899, [illegible].

Lawrence Hall of Science. *Science on a Sphere (SOS)* New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow across the planet. Daily. $6-$9, $11. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-642-5133, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

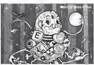
Oakland Museum of California. *Fertile Ground: Art and Community in California* Major exhibition that brings together important works from SFMOMA and OMCA's collections, exploring how California artists have influenced and been influenced by artists, ideas, and [illegible] on a national and international level. Through Apr. 12, 2015. $6-$15, MuseumCA.org. *Songs and Stories: Días de los Muertos 20th Anniversary* This 20th anniversary exhibition in OMCA highlights [illegible] pioneers in the Bay Area and newer voices that continue [illegible] Oakland, including [illegible], Carmen Lomas Garza, [illegible] Valdez, and Frank Hernandez, among others. Through Jan. 4, 2015. $4-$15, MuseumCA.org. *Sunshine and Superpower: San Diego Comic-Con Installation* co-curated with faculty and students of San Diego State University explores the history of [illegible] in comics, San Diego's shift towards [illegible], and the social and political ramifications of comics through the ages. Through May 31, 2015. $6-$15, free for [illegible] under 8 and for members. 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumCA.org.

Peralta Hacienda Historical Park. *When I Hear I Weep: Stories from Oakland's Dream* This visual and audio art installation is based on African American stories to modern-day Oakland, [illegible] the personal experiences in local residents. Wednesdays-Saturdays. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-9142, PeraltaHacienda.org.

Stephens Hall. [illegible] Memory and Deals in the Wild West. **[illegible] Gallery.** An exhibition of Peter Koch's [illegible] prints [illegible] from [illegible] photographs, [illegible] documents, manuscript journals and [illegible] engravings, accompanied by short legends by the artist, hand-set in antique lead and wood type. Through Feb. 20, 2015. Free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-6000, Berkeley.edu.

Western Railway Museum. [illegible] Exhibit on the future of energy and transportation highlighting renewable energy solutions. Daily. $10 for adults, $8 for seniors, $7 for kids. 5848 State Highway 12, Suisun City, 707-374-2978, WRM.org.

PICK


Artwork by Bruce Parker

Us

The titular "us" of LeQuiVive Gallery's current group show refers to local artists Lauren YS, Bruce Parker, Matt Ritchie, and Patrick O'Connell. The meaning behind the title isn't explicit, but it invokes an "us" versus "them" dichotomy — not aggressively, but without apology. The group of artists present impeccable works of pop-surrealist and "lowbrow" paintings — to throw a loose net over them — each with a distinct style that calls upon staples of the styles while infusing them with relevance and originality. O'Connell's work alludes to illustrative traditions most clearly, with a series of portraits of famous drawn characters, such as Roger Rabbit and Popeye, done in an overtly fan-art style with total retro-visual accuracy. Bruce Parker's work utilizes a cast of characters seemingly out of the same era, but dipped in radioactive waste and left to mutate and melt. Each piece is bold yet intricate, expertly employs the grey scale to render his globbings of pop symbology. Matt Ritchie's incredibly detailed and layered work hangs in the center: a series of hand-cut wooden shapes that each encase a tiny wooden amulet painted white and illustrated with ballpoint pen. One is a fish framing a Swiss army knife, just like the one his father gave him, and another is a fighter jet with a replica of the Air Force wings that his grandfather wore. The work of Lauren YS hangs on the opposite wall, appropriately separated for its more villainous aesthetic and loose artistic hand. Her work provides representation for the Japanese anime influence to the artistic genre, with gooey lady-monsters in bold, neon colors. Overall, the show is a roundup of local illustrating heroes worthy of a good, long gawk-out.
— *Sarah Burke*

Closing reception on January 2. LeQuiVive.com

Submissions for calendar listings should be emailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Bad Guy Good Comedy An evening of stand-up comedy featuring cutting-edge and up-and-coming comedians. Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., $5. The Legionnaire Saloon, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-891-8660. LegionnaireSaloon.com.

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XIII Comedy Show starring Will Durst, Johnny Steele and others. Political stand-up, improvisation and brazenly written sketches about the major news items of 2014. Sat., Dec. 27, 8 p.m., $22, $35. Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-295-1400, LesherArtsCenter.org.

New Year's Eve [illegible] Comedy Explosion [illegible] the Entertainer is best known for his crowd-pleasing roles in the hit films *Barbershop* with Ice Cube, *Be Cool* with John Travolta, *Madagascar* [illegible], *Intolerable Cruelty* with George Clooney, and *The Original Kings of Comedy* (directed by Spike Lee). This New Year's Eve is your chance to see him LIVE on the Paramount stage! Wed., Dec. 31, 11 p.m., $50 and up. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

NYE Comedy Mega Show [illegible] (Silicon Valley, The Meltdown, Portlandia [illegible]), Natasha Leggero (Another Period, Comedy Central Roasts, [illegible]), Brent Weinbach (Comedy Central [illegible], Gangster Party Line, Pound House, Comedians of Comedy Tour, Smug Shit), Andrew [illegible] (Bridgetown Comedy Festival), plus surprise guests. Wed., Dec. 31, 10:30 p.m., $20, $25. Grand Lake Theater, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Kids Stories [illegible] Bay Area comedian [illegible] presents a [illegible] featured [illegible] Fourth Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m., $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Café Flamenco — [illegible] [illegible] *Caminos Flamencos* [illegible] a Fiesta [illegible] and grand finale to the 2014 *Café flamenco* series. Artistic Director [illegible] and [illegible] Director Jason [illegible] "El [illegible]" will be joined by Spanish gypsy singer Jose [illegible] "El Grillo," [illegible] and [illegible] for a night of [illegible] musicianship and performance. Sun., Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m., $12-$15. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

Fandango Flamenco A monthly series featuring a rotating cast of world-class flamenco performers and starring guest stars. Fourth Sunday of every month, 7 p.m., $15 in advance, $20 at the door, $10 for kids 12 and under. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060, Rhythmix.org.

[illegible] A dance theatre journey of love, loss and [illegible] based upon [illegible] play *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* and choreographed by [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays. Continues through May 8. [illegible] Carlos Bee [illegible], Hayward. 510-885-3000, [illegible]

Five Decades of Dance [illegible] celebrate its 50th anniversary season with a program featuring highlights from both historical masterworks and newly commissioned ballets created by alumni of the company. Through May 23, 2015, 8 p.m. [illegible] Johnson Performing Arts Center, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-[illegible].

LIVE VARIETY

LAUNCH: Thriving Artists performance, conference and salon This dynamic show will be highlighting new work by three exciting performing artists, and will also include [illegible] community artist discussions and [illegible] sharing [illegible] and career ideas to help [illegible]. Mon., Dec. 29, 6-8:30 p.m., $15-$45. The Flight Deck, 1540 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]. TheFlightDeck.org.

[illegible] & Circus [illegible] Productions is proud to announce the 5th Annual [illegible] and [illegible] A Winter Circus [illegible] a holiday [illegible] with their comedy, music, spectacular [illegible], and holiday high jinks. This year's [illegible] and The Fiddle Family Circus. Fri., Dec. 26, 8 & 9 p.m., Sat., Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Sun., Dec. 28, 2 p.m., $15-$55. [illegible] Theater, 3316 24th St., San Francisco, 415-826-4441, DanceMission.com.

Sea Bohemia NYE Poets and performers, aerialists and DJ's, burlesque dancers and [illegible] jugglers, Art Cars and visual treats, [illegible] costumes are all in the theme [illegible] New Bohemia. Wed., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $75-$175. The Armory, 1800 Mission St., San Francisco.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

A Christmas Carol [illegible] [illegible] cast of dozens, gorgeous costumes and [illegible] deliciously spooky ghosts, the Bay Area's [illegible] holiday tradition [illegible] with a sparkling, music-infused production of *A Christmas Carol*. Bring your family, bring your friends, and check your "humbugs" at the door! Through Dec. 26, $25-$100. Geary Theater, 415 Geary St., San Francisco. 415-749-2ACT.

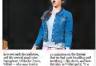
Home for the Holidays Waterfront Playhouse & Conservatory in [illegible] brings you the [illegible] theatrical treat [illegible] "Home for the Holidays": a collection of writers, actors, directors, and others will work together for a span of 24 hours to create new and original work for the stage. Upon completion of the 24 hours of work [illegible] the curtain goes up, the crowd is brought in and the performances begin! Sun., Dec. 28, 6:30 p.m., $15. Waterfront Playhouse and Conservatory, [illegible] 4th Street, Berkeley.

Jitney The Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. Oakland's premiere North American African Theater Company continues their march through August Wilson's [illegible] Century Cycle. *Jitney*, the eighth play in the ten play cycle opens December 26, 2014, and runs weekends through January 3 for a total of seven shows. Starting Dec. 26. Fridays-Saturdays. Continues through Jan. 3, $15-$40. The Flight Deck, 1540 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]. TheFlightDeck.org.

V Monologues New Year's Eve [illegible] [illegible] Be prepared to be taken on an [illegible] ride of [illegible] talk about vaginas, relationships, [illegible] and music. VIP reception starting at 7:30 p.m. Show [illegible] until 11:00 followed by New Years Eve party until 2 a.m. BrownPaperTickets.com/[illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., $35-$200. [illegible] Kaiser [illegible], [illegible] Oakland. ●

PICK

Our Town


[illegible] as Emily displays her bookish charm in *Our Town*.

There are lots of reasons why Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1938 production *Our Town*, which takes place in turn-of-the-century New England, might resist modern adaptations: It's hella folksy, the dialogue seems like it was lifted right out of a *Leave It To Beaver* episode, and except for one drunk choir director (Christopher W. White, a real highlight), everyone seems to be just about the down-rightest folk you'll ever meet, by golly. All these elements make for great insurance infomercials, but great theater? And yet, and yet! Shotgun's cast and crew pull it off. The plot involves the goings-on of townsfolk in Grover's Corners with two families at its center: The Gibbs and the Webbs. Steering the action of the play is a Stage Manager (the delightful Madeline H.D. Brown), who acts as narrator, interacts with the audience, and fills several small roles throughout. With *Our Town*, Wilder — who once lived in Berkeley — set out to change the conventions of theater in his time, which is why he demanded *Our Town* be free of a set and scenery and involve lots of fourth-wall breakage. The play's unconventional setup allows for a rare glimpse into the raw hearts and minds of ordinary people, and in the end, provides a rumination on the themes that we find most troubling and terrifying — life, death, and love. But also, as Wilder put it, "It is an attempt to find a value above all price for the smallest events in our daily life." — *Anna Pulley*

Runs through Jan. 25 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley), $20–$30 ($5 if you're under 25). ShotgunPlayers.org or 510-841-6500.

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Hellie's Writers Collective Hosted by Vince Storti with emotion exercises and workshopping. Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Frank Bette Center, 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Family Storytime Stories, songs, and rhymes for all ages, followed by Playtime! Make new friends and play with toys. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Sun., Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m.; Mon., Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m.; Tue., Dec. 30, 10:30 a.m.; Wed., Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Family Storytime Stories, songs, and rhymes for all ages (followed by playtime). Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland, 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Family Storytime Stories, songs, and rhymes for all ages, followed by Playtime! Make new friends and play with toys. Saturdays, 11 a.m. Free. Oakland Public Library West Oakland Branch, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland, 510-238-7352. OaklandLibrary.org.

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all kinds. Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. 510-705-1200. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com. Bay Area Free Book Exchange, 10620 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-705-1200, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com.

Let's Meet in the Zone! Your teen librarian, Emily, wants to meet you. If you like to play games, indulge in DIY crafts, or want to tell your teen librarian what your next favorite books are, go to the new pop-up TeenZone! Fri., Dec. 26, 3:30-4 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 16, 3:30-4 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 20, 3:30-4 p.m.; Fri., Mar. 20, 3:30-4 p.m.; Fri., Apr. 17, 3:30-4 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211, Oakland, 510-615-5726, OaklandLibrary.org.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more library events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Let's Meet in the Zone! Your teen Oakland librarians want to meet you. If you like to play games, indulge in DIY crafts, or want to tell your teen Oakland what your new favorite books are, go to the new pop-up TeenZone. Fri., Dec. 26, 3:30-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library West Oakland Branch, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland, 510-238-7352. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pajama Storytime Books, music, and prizes for the whole family to enjoy. Pajamas are Welcome! First and last Tuesday of every month. 7 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-482-7844. OaklandLibrary.org.

Poetry Express Readings A weekly poetry venue and open mic. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Himalayan Flavors Restaurant, 1860 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8178. HimalayanBerkeley.com.

Uniquely Yours: A Seven Windows Shabazz Writing Workshop Author Peggy Simmons leads a workshop for writers of all levels, experiences, and genres, ages 18 and up. Drop-ins welcome, long-term participation encouraged. Fourth Sunday of every month, 1-3:30 p.m. $1-$25. Eventbrite. [illegible] Oakland Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-238-9171. [illegible]

PUBLIC INTEREST

It's Your Move: Chess Club Beginner and intermediate chess clinic for all ages in the West Oakland Branch Library. Adults come from 1-3, and children from 3-5. Parents are Welcome to participate. Sign up is mandatory. Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library West Oakland Branch, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland, 510-238-7352, OaklandLibrary.org.

Learn how to download FREE books, magazines & audio from your library Staff will help visitors get up and running with ebooks, magazines, music and more. Bring in and explore some of their favorite apps and learn how to get them on your device. This is a hands-on tutorial: bring your internet-capable Kindle, Nook, iOS, Windows or Android device for tips on making the most of your library. Sat., Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Sat., Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Sat., Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Free. Oakland Public Library Piedmont Branch, 160 41st St., Oakland, 510-597-5011. OaklandLibrary.org.

Paper Airplane Workshop Oakland Community Art Project is coming to the library to teach paper airplane making, play Winter Bingo and flex your folding skills. Sat., Dec. 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Summit Vision to Lift Oakland as Flowers for Mike Brown and Eric Garner Open assembly to discuss and reflect on the flowers upsurge in anti-police protests. Flowers by Edge City Collective. Sun., Dec. 28, 2-4 p.m. Free. The Omni, 4799 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, OmniCommons.org.

Substance Abuse Awareness Workshop Workshop aimed for anyone with or affected by alcohol or drug abuse. [illegible] Free. Family members welcome. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, 350 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland, 510-869-6...

Toastmasters International @ Warehouse 416 Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Free. Warehouse 416, 416 26th St., Oakland, 510-927-1853, Warehouse416.com.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam With spoken word and an improvisational band or DJ. Hosted by Ecoby Gomez, the [illegible] DeWolf, Sarah, and Kataryn Lucas. Cash prizes each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082, TheStarryPlough.com.

Holla Back and Speakeasy 14 Thursdays Open mic poetry, Oakland or 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry, food, live DJs, and more. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Members accepted. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629. EastsideArtsAlliance.com.

Saturday Night Special: East Bay Open Mic A monthly open mic hosted by Rollie Handy and Tamas Monk. Last Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. Nilo's Lounge, 3218 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-6429. NilosLounge.com.

PICK

Open Assembly on Justice for Eric Garner and Mike Brown

Oakland protesters marched through foggy streets last week.

Bert Johnson

For many of us, the holidays will be providing a few comforting days of family-focused time following a month of heart-breaking national news and spirited community response. But despite the cure-drenched seasonal distractions, many are working to turn into a focus on local campaigns against police violence and institutionalized racial inequity in the wake of the injustices toward Mike Brown, Eric Garner, and others. One of these collectives is Edge City, a local activist group self-described as "revolutionary," which has been playing one of many active roles in the recent anti-police protests in the East Bay. According to the group's website, it came together in 2009 after the shooting of Oscar Grant, participated in the Occupy Oakland campaign, and came out again for Trayvon Martin last year. Now, the group is focused on amplifying community responses to the grand jury decisions not to indict the officers responsible for the deaths of Mike Brown and Eric Garner. On December 28, the collective will be hosting its second open assembly to bring together various leadership groups and community members. They will facilitate a discussion that reflects on the past few weeks of protest and deliberates on the best strategies for moving forward in terms of resistance and building the necessary social infrastructure to support current struggles. The event, held at the Omni Commons (4799 Shattuck Ave., Oakland), will be open to those who are willing thoughtfully and respectfully engage in productive dialogue with others in the community. *— Sarah Burke*

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2–4 p.m., free. OmniCommons.org or EdgeCityCollective.Wordpress.com.

Not Your Grandfather's Haggis is a non-traditional take on the classic Scottish dish. Bert Johnson

HAGGIS GETS DRESSED UP

The Growlers' Arms brings gastropub fare back to its British roots — but the price tag is steep

By Luke Tsai

If you've never tried haggis, the Scottish delicacy that is notorious for its unapologetic use of a sheep's various "nasty bits," The Growlers' Arms offers a good entry point. At this British-style gastropub in Oakland's Glenview neighborhood, a sheep's minced innards aren't simmered and served inside the animal's own stomach, as is traditional. Instead, chef Brian Ventura cooks lamb liver and heart, as well as the soft meat picked from a slow-simmered lamb's head, into a kind of loose scramble. He then spreads that mixture — with all of its nubby, organ-y goodness — over slices of toast and tops it off with a fried egg.

As far as haggis goes, the dish — listed on the menu as Not Your Grandfather's Haggis — is pretty darn sexy. It's a dish that speaks to the kind of restaurant that owners Shelley and Seamus Mulhall have sought to create — a "gastropub" in the original sense, not as most restaurant-goers in the Bay Area use the term, to mean any bar that serves fancy food. During the 1990s, a growing number of pub owners in Great Britain began to place more importance on their food offerings. Chefs started to serve better versions of Yorkshire pudding and bangers and mash — and even to expand their repertoires beyond the traditional canon.

The Mulhalls hired Ventura — whose most recent gig was cooking Italian food at A16 — and brought him on a whirlwind tour of prominent English countryside pubs, many of them Michelin-starred. Inspired by that experience, at The Growlers' Arms, Ventura butchers whole animals, changes his menu daily, and sources the vast majority of his ingredients from organic, sustainable sources.

And yet, despite the greatness of that haggis, I found the cooking to be uneven — especially for a restaurant that boasts some of the highest prices in Oakland.

Take the traditional English-style fish plate, which features an assortment of house-made fish products: smoked fish, pickled fish, fish eggs, and so forth. I loved the smokiness of the meaty white sturgeon, and I was intrigued by a cod-roe-topped cracker that tasted like a reverse-engineered Triscuit. And yet: It was hard to stomach the $18 price tag for a minuscule portion.

Meanwhile, the oxtail and leek pudding ($28) was a "pudding" in one of the confusing British senses, which is to say it was more of a meat pie (the distinction being that the crust is steamed before baking). This was impressive-looking, stuffed chock-full of shredded oxtail and short rib meat — which turned out to be disappointingly stringy and dry. Only the stout sauce — a kind of gravy — made it palatable.

The Lancashire hot pot ($28) turned out to be a regional variant on shepherd's pie — meat on the bottom, a layer of crispy scalloped potatoes on top and mashed potatoes on the bottom, sandwiching curiously bland braised goat. A "bonus" goat chop on the side looked great, in a *Flintstones* kind of way, but it too turned out to be underseasoned and, to me, made up mostly of chewy, unrendered fat.

For a pub, the beer selection at The Growlers' Arms isn't particularly interesting or extensive, with only four brews on tap. Nor was I overly impressed with dessert — the oddly-named "spotted Richard" (can't we call a dick a dick?). This was a fairly traditional version — something like an oversized currant scone, which was vastly improved when we drenched it in crème anglaise. The only embellishments were some slices of booze-soaked persimmon, which we mostly left uneaten.

Still, there is greatness to be found if you know what to order. Start with a couple rounds of the excellent (and complimentary) bread, which is baked in the wood-fire oven and cut into thick slices. The aforementioned haggis is a must-order, too, if you aren't squeamish about organ meat.

Both of the salads I tried were outstanding, though these were straight out of the California cuisine playbook. A warm potato salad was topped with duck cracklings, a six-minute egg (with a creamy, spoonable yolk), and just enough crunchy pickled elements to keep things interesting. And the crab salad we ordered was an elegant classic: generous chunks of Marin Headlands Dungeness crabmeat — the sweetest I've had so far this season — tossed with assorted chicories and citrus fruit.

Of the entrées I tried, the duck confit with broccolini, beans, and bacon was far and away the best. This involved a wonderful combination of crispy skin, soft, fatty flesh, and a mélange of soupy beans. (For whatever reason, the dishes I enjoyed the most tended to be the ones that seemed the least British — even though I like British pub fare.)

Atmosphere-wise, the restaurant has the feel of a well-heeled aristocrat's library — leather banquettes, the mantle above the fireplace lined with old books and the bust of some great man, an old-fashioned dining cart. A recurring dog motif ("growler" is British slang for a dog) keeps things from feeling too stodgy — lots of sketches of well-to-do nineteenth-century folks with their pets. And during my visit, the clientele mostly looked to be predominantly well-to-do folks in their sixties and seventies — perhaps a product of the neighborhood, the style of cuisine, and, more to the point, the prices.

It's all too easy to run up a bill of $100 for a party of two, even if no one drinks. For that kind of coin, I'd rather eat at Box and Bells or Duende, or hell, splurge a bit more and treat myself to Chez Panisse.

All that said, would you believe that my favorite dish at The Growlers' Arms was a $10 "picnic" pork pie, served as a to-go item only? Ventura explained that, in England, many countryside pubs will offer similar pies — a compact lunch that a miner or other laborer can eat cold, with a bit of mustard to liven it up. But if you're eating it at home for breakfast, as I did, I highly recommend heating it up in the oven until the crust crisps and the coarse ground pork filling inside is bubbly and hot. Take a bite and there's a surfeit of meaty juices, with streaks of soft pumpkin flesh adding a hint of sweetness.

If I lived in the neighborhood, I'd pick one up every week. And if the pub served a few other dishes at that price point, I could see myself becoming a regular. ■

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

The Growlers' Arms

4214 Park Ave., Oakland
510-328-1315
Hours: Tue.–Sat. 5–10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–8 p.m.
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Sample Menu

English Style Fish Plate	$18
Not Your Grandfather's Haggis	$14
Crab Salad	$13
Duck Confit	$23
Oxtail and Leek Pudding	$28

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The breakfast corndog at Hendiebar is beyond decadent.

Bert Johnson

WHAT THE FORK

BEST BITES OF 2014

Fried chicken necks, convenience store sandwiches, and a whole lot of Asian comfort food

By Luke Tsai

One of my favorite holiday traditions is compiling my annual list of top ten East Bay bites. It's a time to scroll through hundreds of blurry cellphone food pics and make myself very, very hungry in the process. For whatever reason, this year's batch of favorites skewed heavily toward Asian comfort food — steaming bowls of soupy noodles and the kinds of dishes best enjoyed over white rice.

With apologies to the steamed surf clams at Great China and the tonkotsu at Ippuku, I limited my list to East Bay restaurants that opened within the past twelve months, with a couple of notable exceptions. Here are my picks, arranged in rough chronological eating order.

"Ocean Umami" at Iyasare

1830 Fourth St., Berkeley

If you took all of the ingredients in this dish — the sweet raw Hokkaido scallops, marinated salmon roe, lobes of uni (sea urchin), and seaweed-infused ponzu sauce — and served them to me fruit-salad-style out of a paper cup, I'd still be happy to eat it on a daily basis. The fact that chef Shotaro Kamio's creation is also plated as beautifully as a piece of gallery-worthy abstract art is the cherry — or the, um, uni — on top. For anyone who loves the briny, umami-laden flavors of the deep sea, this is about as luxurious as it gets.

Curry Goat at Kingston 11

2270 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

At Kingston 11, the lively Jamaican joint that has quickly cemented its place as one of Uptown Oakland's gathering places, the crowd favorite is probably chef Nigel Jones' succulent, smoky-as-all-get-out version of jerk chicken — which, truth be told, would also be a worthy selection for this list. But the dish I keep coming back to is the curried goat (available Thursday through Saturday) — a dish that's so well seasoned, with the meat slow-simmered to such lush, tender perfection, that even diners who don't think they like goat meat will likely become converts.

Idiot Noodles at Dragon Gate Bar and Grille

300 Broadway, Oakland

This year saw a mini-revival of Taiwanese cooking in Oakland, with the openings of Taiwan Bento in Uptown and Dragon Gate in the Jack London neighborhood. The latter is a loud, gaudy kind of place with swank karaoke rooms and servers bedecked in slinky, thigh-length Mandarin gowns, so it was a pleasant surprise to find that the restaurant's Taiwanese dishes were so homey and comforting. Perhaps my favorite was the charmingly named "idiot" noodles, which combined yu song (dried fish floss), assorted pickled vegetables, half a soy-sauce-braised egg, and a Bolognese-like braised pork belly meat sauce — so many satisfying flavors and textures in a single bowl.

Steamed Clams with Kimchi at The Dock at Linden Street

95 Linden St., Oakland

In a city that's positively teeming with beer-friendly eats, The Dock sits at the very top of my current list of go-to spots to grab a brew and a few plates of tasty food. As conceived by chef-owner James Syhabout, The Dock adheres to no stylistic or national boundaries, so one visit might yield crinkle-cut fries topped with Texas-style queso while the next offers head-on shrimp grilled on the plancha in the manner of a seaside tapas bar in Spain. Best of all was this bowl of clams, bacon, and fresh napa cabbage kimchi in a fragrant broth. Because the kimchi was fresh, not fermented, the overall effect was surprisingly mild and soothing — just the thing

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No dish is as comforting as a bowl of soup from AS B-Dama

Bert Johnson

to ladle over a big bowl of men.

Bun Rieu at Bun Mam Soc Trang

1326 E. 18th St., Oakland

Bun Mam Soc Trang has been around for a few years now, even if it's little known outside of the local Vietnamese community. But this noodle shop hidden in an obscure stretch of East Oakland was probably my favorite discovery of the year, so it seems only fitting to give it another shout-out. As great as the restaurant's namesake noodle soup — the bun mam — is, one of my favorite bites of the year was the restaurant's version of bun rieu — a rice vermicelli soup that featured silky cubes of pork blood, cloud-like pork meatballs infused with all of the rich juices from a crab's head, and a bit of pungent mam ruoc (fermented shrimp paste).

Breakfast Corn Dog at Handlebar

984 University Ave., Berkeley

At Handlebar, brunch — served Saturday through Monday — is the most decadent meal of the day. And the most decadent dish of all is chef Roland Robles' take on a pig-in-a-blanket: an oversized breakfast sausage that gets dipped in pancake batter, deep-fried, and served on a stick, with plenty of maple syrup-infused butter for slathering. Those who truly want to go big should order this object of all American ingenuity with a side of the best hash brown patties in the East Bay.

KFB at The Half Orange

3340 E. 12th St., Ste. 11, Oakland

Not to take anything away from the American South, but it's a well-established fact at this point that Koreans know how to fry chicken as well as anyone. Hence, The Half Orange's most triumphant creation, Korean-fried bushes, which combines a popular Tijuana taqueria's love of the chicken neck and the Korean cook's precise double-frying technique. The result? The gochujang funk and unparalleled crunch of Korean fried chicken, plus the tactile pleasures you get from gnawing away at a chicken wing until you've stripped off every last bit of skin and meat. Add a cold beer to the mix, and you've got a match made in heaven.

Menudo at Norma Meat & Deli

3690 Barrett Ave. (inside Val Mar Market), Richmond

Here's another spot that has been around for a few years, but was such a fun discovery — given its hidden away, back-of-a-convenience-store location — that I wanted to highlight it again. If you only visit owner Norma Muñoz's little deli counter one time, the dish to eat is one of her compact, well-griddled pupusas, each one made to order by hand. But if you're lucky enough to stop by on a Saturday or Sunday, you shouldn't pass up on the opportunity to try Muñoz's weekend-only menudo. Rich, clean-tasting, and chock full of tripe and beef feet cooked until they're unspeakably tender, this was one of the best bowls of menudo I've ever tasted.

Pork Adobo Sandwich at POP Sandwich

378 17th St. (inside Chez Mado), Oakland

Indeed, this has been quite a year for the inside-a-convenience-store genre of restaurant, which also introduced me to some of my favorite sandwiches of the year: Ian De Leon's banh-mi-inspired creations, sold from the deli counter in the back section of an Uptown Oakland vape shop. Almost all of De Leon's sandwiches were worthy contenders, but I was particularly smitten with his pork adobo sandwich, which combines his mother's traditional adobo recipe, fork-tender pork, and a *sambal* aioli that added just the right touch of chili heat.

Hari-Hari Nabe at AS B-Dama

907 Washington St., Oakland

Finally, in a year filled with comfort food from Asia, perhaps no dish was as comforting as this bowl of soup at AS B-Dama, Old Oakland's wonderful Japanese izakaya. Is there anything that will warm you up like this combination of tofu, thinly sliced pork belly, mizuna, and wholesome miso broth? As long as winter sticks around, this is a dish I'll be keeping in my regular rotation. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Restaurants in Glenview, Montclair, and Piedmont Avenue

Adesso
4395 Piedmont Ave. #2, Oakland, 510-601-0305, DopoAdesso.com/Adesso. This Piedmont Avenue hotspot is famous for its three dozen varieties of house-cured, uniquely spiced salumi, but there's more to the place than shmoozing with Spritz and prosecco: pâtés made of pigeon, rabbit and duck; panini and piadina (Italian flatbread) stuffed with everything from soft-shell crab to mozzarella di bufala; unique antipasti like raw tuna and roasted tomato on rounds of chick-pea polenta. Get the Sicilian lemon honey gelato for dessert. Dazzling all-Italian wine list, inventive house cocktails (try the totally peachy Pesca). The 5-7 p.m. happy hour is the very definition of abbondanza. $$$

Amba Falafel
6464 Moraga Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8000. This Montclair falafel house has a strange duality. On one hand it is a fully kosher, Sabbath-observant restaurant that serves as a community hub for Bay Area Orthodox Jews. On the other, it's part of Jonathan Wornick's ambitious plans to create the nation's first Israeli street-food chain. The falafel and hummus are fresh and tasty, and the sabich fried eggplant sandwich is a less familiar winner. But unless you're strictly kosher, skip the pizza — American fast food items were added to the menu primarily to appease the strictly observant. $

Bar Cesar
4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-2200, CesarBerkeley.com. Piedmont branch of the acclaimed Gourmet Ghetto tapas bar forsakes the mother ship's Spanish cuisine for an array of Nuevo Latino dishes, with satisfying results. Menu standards include a moist, spicy pollo asado (baked chicken), creamy fried plantains, and several tasty tacos and empanadas. Get the pastel imposible (flan and chocolate cake) for dessert. Impressive wine and cocktail list. $$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers
4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180, BarneysHamburgers.com. At Barney's you get a huge, juicy slab of ground beef topped with everything from ultra-classic cheddar to Jamaican jerk sauce to grilled vegetables and marinara sauce. Don't eat beef — or any meat at all? The menu covers its bases: turkey burgers, veggie burgers, chicken, and tofu. Curly fries, ketchup, and soda will provide you with the other three basic American food groups. $

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant
3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004, BayWolf.com. Michael Wild's standard-bearing Cal-Med destination is as essential as when it opened 35 years ago. The frequently changing seasonal menu might include house-made borage pasta with grilled prawns and blistered cherry tomatoes, an enormous, juicy rack of pork with braised romano beans; or the house specialty, duck, served grilled, smoked, or with its liver transformed into a light, creamy flan. Get the huckleberry pudding for dessert. Comfy setting in a reconfigured Piedmont Craftsman house. $$$

Bellanico
4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180, Bellanico.net. This Glenview neighborhood hangout prepares and serves mostly exemplary and always inventive Italian dishes in a warm and convivial setting. Begin your meal with the startlingly good gorgonzola panna cotta or a platter of mozzarella, Sicilian pasta with sweet onions, dandelion greens and milk-braised goat. The grilled pork chop with cherries and pickled rhubarb is a marvelous entrée, and don't miss the tangy chèvre cheesecake or the luscious chocolate-date pudding for dessert. Unusual and inexpensive (primarily Italian) wine list. $$$

Blackberry Bistro
4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088, TheBlackberryBistro.com. The original chef-owner has moved on, but hungry crowds continue to pack the sidewalk on weekends, proof that this compact Glenview spot still has legs. The menu, Deep South meets North Oakland, is pretty much unchanged, and dishes like shrimp and grits, frittatas, and cheesy omelets are just as rib-sticking as ever. Some signature dishes have lost a bit of their former flourish, such as stodgy banana-bread pudding that needed a bit more soaking and a clammy potato pancake. Stick to the eggy bennies and you won't go wrong. $-$$

Cato's Ale House
3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3349, CatosAleHouse.com. Catch live music from Bay Area bands every Sunday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 7 to 9 p.m. Expect to hear jazz, world grooves, blues, and roots music from local combos — and never pay a cover. Cato's is open for lunch and dinner and has free wireless. Test your wits at trivia every Monday, or come for karaoke every first and third Saturday. The beer selection is impressive. There are also wine options, but no liquor is served. The menu includes pizza and pub fare, and the kitchen is open until 10 or 11 depending on the day. $-$$

Commis
3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902, CommisRestaurant.com. Star chef James Syhabout's intimate, unusual, and beautifully balanced creations are showcased at this sparsely appointed, white-on-white Piedmont Avenue restaurant. The three-course prix fixe menu employs locally harvested seasonal ingredients in striking and unique combinations: sweetbreads on a bed of rye buttons and allium nectar, say, or Fort Bragg lingcod with toasted fennel, white beans, and seaweed broth; or a goat's milk panna cotta draped in beet blood orange sorbet and candied pistachios. The food is more memorable than the overall experience, though, especially at these prices. Wine pairings available for an additional stipend. $$$$

Dopo
4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676, DopoAdesso.com/dopo. A long-overdue expansion has helped Dopo ripen into the perfect neighborhood trattoria with the intimacy of a storefront, yet enough seats to give you a fighting chance of avoiding an endless sidewalk wait. The menu has expanded, too. Chef-owner Jon Smulewitz still cures his own tasty salumi and patés, but he's added a cheese platter and a selection of pesci crudi, vivid little raw seafood salads. The rest of the compact menu — with its uber thin-crust pizzas and lasagna that's both delicate and comforting — has never tasted better. $-$$

Gregoire
4001B Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444, GregoireRestaurant.com. At Grégoire Jacquet's minuscule takeout restaurant, the affable Frenchman cooks all the food to order. You'll have trouble making it home with your stack of warm, heavenly-smelling cardboard boxes without taking at least one peek. (Don't try to keep your hands off the crispy cheesy potato puffs, because they're best straight out of the fryer.) Lunch features a bevy of memorable sandwiches; dinners are more expensive, albeit casual, restaurant-style entrées like rack of lamb. $-$$

Grinders Submarine Sandwiches
2069 Antioch Ct., Oakland, 510-339-3721. Study the menu well before you belly up to the counter at Grinders, a tiny sandwich shop in Montclair Village. The owner will fire a barrage of questions at you about every conceivable topping you could put on your sandwich. You'd better have a strong opinion about your choices, because he does, too, and he'll let you know when you've committed a delicatessen-sin. The payoff for the high-speed, high-stress grilling: Your favorite sandwich gets saved in the database, to be called up onscreen when you return. $

Homestead
4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-6962, HomesteadOakland.com. When Elizabeth and Fred Sassen were planning their first restaurant, the husband-and-wife team drew inspiration from Elizabeth's grandparents, who, as original homesteaders, had to master all their pioneer work ethic and from-scratch food preparation know-how just to survive that first winter on the frontier. At Homestead, the Sassens not only produce a wide variety of charcuterie, they also preserve the tomatoes, dry the chili peppers, and make their own vinegars and cheeses. The DIY approach pays off in something as simple as the tub of delicious house-churned salted butter that starts your meal, and the wedge of house-made ricotta that forms the focus of an antipasto spread. The centerpiece of the farm-to-table restaurant is a custom-designed wood-burning hearth, in which the Sassens char seasonal vegetables and roast and grill large hunks of meat, imbuing dishes with a deep, lovely smokiness. $$$

LoCoco's Restaurant
4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222, LoCocosPiedmont.com. Though it calls itself Sicilian, LoCoco's sticks to the basic tricolore of American Italian cuisine: Red for marinara, white for cream sauce, and green for pesto. Pizza, that Sicilian specialty, dominates the menu. Its many regulars love the familiar atmosphere, the reasonable prices, and the excellent service. $$

Monaghans on the Hill
2820 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2500, MonaghansOnTheHill.com. Offering live music every Thursday and Saturday night, this Oakland Hills restaurant and bar is more than just a hangout spot for diehard sports fans. In addition to typical bar fare such as buffalo wings and chicken quesadillas, Monaghans also serves seafood paella and pork enchiladas. Specials on food and drinks happen on Taco Tuesdays, Wicked Wing Wednesdays, and Thirsty Thursdays. $$

RECENTLY REVIEWED

A5 B-Dama
907 Washington St. (inside Swan's Market), Oakland, 510-251-1113, A5BDama.com. This order-at-the-counter izakaya located inside of Swan's Market has improved on almost everything we loved about the original B-Dama. The setting is even more low-key and accessible. The prices are just as affordable. And the food is more soulful and audacious than ever. Creative touches abound. The agedashi tomato gives cherry tomatoes the deep-fried dashi-broth soaked treatment usually reserved for tofu. Pork rosemary apples cottage cheese to luncheon grilled pork belly served Korean-style with lettuce leaves for wrapping. In the end, however, what B-Dama does best is Japanese comfort food: mounds of impossibly tender beef tendon stew, big bowls of yuzu hot udon soup, and generous platters of lightly battered karaage (Japanese fried chicken). $$-$$$

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Claremont Brunch [illegible] Thu., Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. $125. Claremont Hotel Club & Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-843-3000, ClaremontResort.com.

Comal New Year's Eve Party This New Year's Eve, Comal will once again [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $45. Comal, 2020 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-926-6300, ComalBerkeley.com.

Dopo New Year's Eve Dinner [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 5:30, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., [illegible] 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676, DopoAdesso.com/dopo.

Farmstead Wine Tasting A bi-weekly wine tasting with all proceeds benefiting local schools. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., Saturdays, 2-5 p.m., Fridays, 5-7:30 p.m. $1 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, [illegible] La Salle Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible], FarmsteadCheesesAndWines.com.

[illegible] Food Market Featuring food trucks, [illegible] [illegible]. Saturdays, [illegible] a.m.-4 p.m. free. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible], Alameda.Peralta.edu.

Hog's Apothecary New Year's Dinner [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. $65. Hog's Apothecary, 375 40th St., Oakland, 510-338-3847, HogsApothecary.com.

Homestead New Year's Eve Celebration [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. $ [illegible]. Homestead, 4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-6962, Homestead-Oakland.com.

New Year's Eve at BayWolf Four-course prix fixe menu [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, $82. BayWolf Cafe and Restaurant, 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004, BayWolf.com.

New Year's Eve Celebration at Ajanta [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 5:30-9 p.m. Ajanta, 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373, AjantaRestaurant.com.

NYE Dinner with a Modest ? at Longitude [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $[illegible]. Longitude, 347 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-5608, LongitudeOakland.com.

NAJAYE 2015: Lungomare Ultimate Dinner Party [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. Lungomare, 1 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171, LungomareOakland.com.

NAJAYE 2015: Ozumo Fire Dinner and Party [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., $[illegible]. Ozumo Oakland, 2251 Broadway, Oakland, 510-286-9866, OzumoOakland.com.

[illegible] Claremont [illegible] Dinner [illegible] Thu., Dec. 25, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., $65. Claremont Hotel Club & Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-843-3000, ClaremontResort.com.

Vintage Berkeley Wines Tasting [illegible] Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley, 510-665-8600.

[illegible] Pop-Up NYE [illegible] Wed., Dec. 31, 6-10 p.m., $30. [illegible] 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, [illegible].

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farm Fresh Choice Community Market [illegible] Tuesdays, 2:30-6:30 p.m., free, 510-548-3724, EcologyCenter.org. [illegible]

[illegible] 1728 Eighth St., Berkeley 510-[illegible], [illegible].

[illegible] Farmers Market [illegible]

[illegible] Farmers Market [illegible] Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free, 510-[illegible] [illegible] Farmers [illegible] 12th St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers Market [illegible] Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free, 510-[illegible], KensingtonFarmersMarket.org, [illegible] Circle, at the Arlington, Kensington.

Montclair Village Farmers Market [illegible] Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] La Salle Ave. [illegible] Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers Market [illegible] Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org, Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers Market [illegible] Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free, 510-[illegible] [illegible], Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers Market [illegible] Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] Old Oakland Farmers Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland.

Port of Oakland Jack London Square Sunday Market [illegible] Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free, [illegible]. Jack London Square, Webster and [illegible] St., Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market [illegible] Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., free, RichmondFarmersMarket.org, Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. and Macdonald Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market [illegible] Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org, Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible], [illegible].

Temescal Farmers' Market [illegible] Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free, 510-745-7100, DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

PICK

Tim Wendelboe Event

The Berkeley-based roaster Supersonic Coffee has mostly kept things low-key in the months since it first opened its doors, picking up a handful of high-profile wholesale contracts around the country. This Friday will offer an opportunity for the everyday coffee enthusiast to get a better idea of what Supersonic is all about. The roaster will host Tim Wendelboe, a superstar of the coffee world who has won both a World Barista Championship and a world title in coffee "cupping" (aka tasting). His coffee is served at Noma, the Copenhagen restaurant that often ranks as one of the world's top dining establishments. On Friday, Wendelboe will give a talk on the ultimate research-based collaboration he has undertaken with Finca Tamana, a coffee farm in Colombia, after which there will be a Q&A and an opportunity for participants to taste samples of Finca Tamana coffee. At 8 p.m., the roastery will open its doors for anyone interested in touring the premises. — *Luke Tsai*

Tim Wendelboe.

Friday, Dec. 26, 5–8 p.m., $20. SupersonicCoffee.com

MOVIES

STAR-SPANGLED WAR STORIES

Have yourself a combative little Christmas with *American Sniper* and *Unbroken*

By Kelly Vance

Bradley Cooper stars in the Iraq War story *American Sniper*.

This Christmas, give the gift of war. Warner Bros. and Universal, respectively, are offering moviegoers the choice between two separate major conflicts for their holiday enjoyment: Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper*, a dramatic account of the Iraq War career of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, and Angelina Jolie's *Unbroken*, also a true-ish story about American flyer Louis Zamperini, who was taken prisoner by the Japanese in World War II.

Let's tackle the Eastwood first. Chris Kyle (played as an adult by Bradley Cooper with a serviceable Texan accent) grows up in the sort of small town where firearms, hunting, and self-reliance are compulsory subjects. Early on, he develops a sharpshooter's eye. His stern-faced father explains to him the notion of humanity falling into three groups — sheep, wolves, and sheepdogs — with the acknowledgment that young Chris is destined to be a sheepdog, a strong figure who protects the weak from predators. Somehow this segues into the grownup Chris joining the SEALs, going through their arduous training, and being deployed to Iraq, where his job is to provide "overwatch," protective fire for Marines from a sniper position, usually on a rooftop.

Chris turns out to be a bloody good killer. In fact, he becomes famous in the US military as the guy who waxed 160 men, women, and children in slaughterhouses such as Fallujah (it should be noted that the kids were carrying rockets, and thus were fair game). Chris is so notorious that Iraqi warlords put a $180,000 bounty on his head as a "crusader" who must be stopped. That, plus the stress of combat and the pain of long periods away from his family take a toll. His wife Taya (Sienna Miller) feels especially frozen out, and her husband's stateside down time becomes almost as nerve-rattling as his tours in-country. After four tours of duty Chris cracks up and seeks medical help, but it is his fate to be remembered as a complicated sheepdog who deserved better.

American Sniper
Directed by Clint Eastwood.
With Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller. Opens Thursday

Unbroken
Directed by Angelina Jolie.
With Jack O'Donnell and Miyavi. Opens Thursday

That's more or less the whole synopsis of *American Sniper*, as nice and tidy a tribute to the US fighting man as filmmaker Eastwood could ask for, all things considered. The firefights are well staged, with overwhelming production values and the requisite smidgen of irony in the screenplay, adapted by Jason Hall from the book by Kyle, Scott McEwen, and James Defelice. Both Cooper and Miller are totally believable in their roles. As he matures, Chris unceasingly behaves like a man programmed for a task, who now aches to de-program himself and break loose. Somewhere in the midst of house-to-house combat in urban areas, we begin to wonder how Chris would react if it were his family sitting down to dinner in their home, who had their door kicked in by foreign troops who couldn't speak their language but screamed at them while pointing assault rifles in their faces. The entire weight of the American campaign in Iraq rests on Chris' shoulders and as he begins to doubt, so do we.

Recall the boundless irony in Eastwood's *Flags of Our Fathers* (the sad story of Native American war hero Ira Hayes) and *Letters from Iwo Jima* (the director's view of Japanese soldiers fighting and dying in vain) — and other combat adventures such as *Lone Survivor* (SEALs in Afghanistan), *Fury* (Brad Pitt against the Nazis) and *Black Hawk Down* (Army Rangers vs. insurgents in Somalia) — and we realize something is lacking. We could go for utter reality, as in Sebastian Junger's Afghanistan war documentaries *Restrepo* and *Korengal*, but a narrative usually gets to the heart of the matter better than a doc.

Here's an idea for a thrillingly new type of war movie: Chronicle the life of Dick Cheney, former Vice President and second-in-command of all US armed forces during Chris Kyle's tours of duty. Philip Seymour Hoffman would have been ideal for the role, but unfortunately he died. How about Steve Carell? We could get some background on Cheney's work as Secretary of Defense under G.H.W. Bush (also his jobs as Republican policymaker and fossil-fuel promoter), maybe sit in on his contributions to Operation Desert Storm in addition to Iraq War Number Two, see him arguing in favor of torture, searching high and low for weapons of mass destruction, etc.

Of course, Cheney came away from Iraq a little better off than Chris Kyle, but such things are to be expected. America needs leaders, and leaders have more important things to think about than the problems of confused grunts and worried military dependents. We imagine that Kyle's dad would recognize Cheney as a "wolf." At any rate, Eastwood should look into this movie concept. He could call it *American Liar*, or maybe *Predator*, and I'd buy a ticket.

Louis "Louie" Zamperini of *Unbroken*, like Chris Kyle in *American Sniper*, is another GI who deserves better. The Italian-American Olympic track athlete turned WWII bomber crewman (played by English actor Jack O'Connell) gets shot down in the Pacific and faces the biggest challenge of his life as a POW under the Japanese. In yet another surprise move out of Hollywood, the generally disrespected Angelina Jolie — subject of more than one of the hacked Sony emails — shows up as *Unbroken*'s director. She does a creditable job.

Unbroken is a perfectly watchable war story of the inspirational type, with valiant Louie standing up to the obsessive brutality of his Japanese captor Sergeant Watanabe (played by pop music star Takamasa Ishihara, under his stage name Miyavi), whom the inmates call The Bird. After Louie and his crewmate survive weeks on a rubber life raft and are captured, The Bird makes it his duty to crush the American athlete's spirit with beatings, waterboarding, slave labor in a coal mine, cruel "games" of strength, etc. But Louie refuses to quit. He may have doubts about himself or his mission, à la Chris Kyle, but if so, he never shows it. Then again, the American mission in WWII was considerably clearer than the one in Iraq.

Adding to the surprise of Jolie's direction is the authorship of *Unbroken*'s screenplay, co-written by Ethan and Joel Coen, with Richard LaGravenese and William Nicholson, from Laura Hillenbrand's book. Irony is not allowed, only old-fashioned bravery. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Sarah.Burke@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

American Sniper Clint Eastwood's portrait of Navy SEAL sharpshooter Chris Kyle [illegible] played by Bradley Cooper [illegible] (134 min.) (K.V.)

Big Eyes A drama [illegible] the awakening of the painter Margaret Keane, her phenomenal [illegible] in the 1950s, and the subsequent legal difficulties [illegible] with her husband, who claimed credit [illegible] the 1960s (105 min.)

The Gambler [illegible]

[illegible] and a teen shark. Further complicating his descent is his relationship with one of his students. [illegible] (111 min.)

Into the Woods [illegible] (124 min.)

National Gallery [illegible] Frederick Wiseman [illegible] London museum. As with his [illegible] documentaries, Wiseman [illegible] (180 min.) (K.V.)

Unbroken Who knew that Angelina Jolie would go the [illegible] Director Jolie turns in a solid, [illegible] chronicle of [illegible] World War II [illegible] Army flyer Louis Zamperini (played by English actor Jack O'Connell), who was shot down in the Pacific, [illegible] in a rubber life raft, then was [illegible] by the Japanese [illegible] by a sadistic [illegible] named Watanabe (pop music star Miyavi). [illegible] director Jolie renders the [illegible] Joel and Ethan Coen, Richard LaGravenese, and William Nicholson, from the book by Laura Hillenbrand. (137 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

Annie The sun will come out tomorrow? It's already shining on the [illegible] New York City [illegible] girl [illegible] her mean foster mother (Cameron Diaz, in full [illegible] mode), a billionaire would-be politician who thinks he hates kids (Jamie Foxx, [illegible]) [illegible] (119 min.) (K.V.)

The Babadook Australian writer/director Jennifer Kent's intelligent, impeccably designed [illegible] a single mom, her [illegible] son, and a sinister picture book [illegible] frightening [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below

BRIEFS 2015
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The *East Bay Express* is now accepting submissions for our
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Submission Guidelines
Filmmaker registration requires: 6 Minute maximum length on films, all filmmaker contact information (email, phone, website, etc.), model releases for each model (must be over 18 – no exceptions), run time of film, synopsis, screen shot, hard copy or Vimeo for consideration.

Submission Deadline
Submissions must be in by January 22, 2015
Screening Date is February 12, 2015

Registration & More Information
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steroids—silent, old black-and-white cartoons, and shed tears, the movie an unsettling foray into the unspeakable emotional conflict between parents and children, and the [illegible] kinds of [illegible] it can unlock. An Aussie maker in the [illegible] of post-Hammer British horror with a [illegible]. The Burton-esque visual sensibility. *The Babadook* is the kind of horror film that makes you want to look under the bed. It's the kind that makes you want to look in the mirror. (93 min.) (K.V.)

Big Hero 6 The special bond that [illegible] between plus-sized character robot Baymax and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of [illegible] to form a band of high-tech heroes. (108 min.)

Birdman (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) Alejandro González Iñárritu turns over a new leaf with a heady, show-biz, inside-showbiz movie character study built around an over-the-hill ex-superhero movie star (Michael Keaton, in full force) and his attempt at resurrecting his career by writing, directing, and starring in a Broadway stage show. Not only sags the story back off the vitality the filmmaker's previous "hyperlink" dramas have [illegible], but the powerhouse acting trio of Keaton, Edward Norton, and Emma Stone deliver a nonstop torrent of personality and emotion, complete with Keaton's stream-of-consciousness and "imaginary" special effects. The real [illegible] is the dialogue by Iñárritu, Nicolás Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, and Armando Bo — a feast of pink, gossip-drenched chatter on the subject of making it [illegible] in an urban [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] laughs. Also among the large, hyper-[illegible] cast: Zach Galifianakis, Naomi Watts, Amy Ryan, Lindsay Duncan (as the ultimate witch-like theatre critic), and Andrea Riseborough. Exhilarating and [illegible]. (119 min.) (K.V.)

Boyhood Richard Linklater made this groundbreaking character study over a period of twelve years with the same family quartet of contemporary middle-class Texans: Mason, the title character, who grows onscreen from age 5 to 18 (Ellar Coltrane); Mason's older sister Samantha (Lorelei Linklater, the filmmaker's daughter); and their divorced parents (Patricia Arquette, Ethan Hawke). The necessarily episodic saga focuses on the childhood of Mason, but all four main roles turn in remarkable, lifelike performances, as do the [illegible] — particular kudos to Arquette and Hawke. By the end of the film's [illegible] running time, we've witnessed a sweeping panorama of the experience that other movies have tried to capture — notably the work of François Truffaut and Linklater's own Before series — but few have succeeded, [illegible] this. One of the most emotionally [illegible] films of this or any other year. Also with Zoe Graham, [illegible] and Libby Villari. (164 min.) (K.V.)

Citizenfour A big chunk of the [illegible] documentary was shot in Edward Snowden's Hong Kong hotel room, and it's an up-close look at history being made [illegible]. But [illegible] Laura Poitras doesn't limit her focus. Putting [illegible] whistleblower William Binney, [illegible] Jacob Appelbaum, the NSA's massive Utah data

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Jack O'Connell (right) stars in Angelina Jolie's war drama Unbroken.

storage facility, and the [illegible] administration's unprecedented suppression of those who speak out against it. Citizenfour is so chilling because we see and hear how we got here — a surveillance state so surreal that Snowden feels the need to remind us "It's not science fiction." (114 min.) (K.K.)

Exodus: Gods and Kings Yegods, what was Ridley Scott thinking? His version of the Old Testament book casts Moses (Christian Bale, by big beard) leading the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. [illegible] Aaron Paul, Ben Kingsley, Sigourney Weaver, [illegible] and John Turturro wondering what to do next. [illegible] (150 min.) (K.V.)

Foxcatcher Steve Carell turns in a mesmerizing performance, with Channing Tatum, Mark Ruffalo, and [illegible] in sterling support, but this creeping-menace melodrama based on [illegible] chemical heir John E. du Pont (Carell) and two of the [illegible] (Tatum, Ruffalo) he hires to train for the Olympics at his estate since 1986, is [illegible]. The true-story dramatization — screenplay by E. Max Frye and Dan Futterman, under the direction of director Bennett Miller (Moneyball, Capote) — can be [illegible] for its craft and the actors' performances, and director [illegible] a cool, judgmental eye on the inner character of the rich and powerful, but we leave the theater with a queasy feeling, as if we've stayed too long at a creep show. Is this particular nostalgia trip strictly necessary? (134 min.) (K.V.)

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night [illegible] Iranian-American [illegible] and Lily Amirpour's stylish and [illegible] a mysterious woman in black (Sheila Vand) [illegible] Writer-director Amirpour [illegible] Los Angeles, pays homage to European and American [illegible] of the horror film [illegible] called Bad City. Shot in black and white, with colorful support by [illegible] and young Milad Eghbali as the kid [illegible] (99 min.) (K.V.)

Gone Girl Director David Fincher, screenwriter/author Gillian Flynn, and actors Rosamund Pike and Ben Affleck [illegible] for a thoroughly satisfying — that is, completely crazy and miserable — [illegible] NYC transplant housewife (Pike), her seemingly oblivious hubby (Affleck), and the day and week missing [illegible] Everything [illegible] Fincher [illegible] in abundance — a [illegible] multi-strand plot line; threads of character notes with plenty of supporting people, and the tendency to quietly ridicule people who [illegible] other people. Among the [illegible] Neil Patrick Harris (unhinged ex-boyfriend), Kim Dickens (hard-pressing police detective), Lola Kirke (white-trash neighbor), Emily Ratajkowski (college student), Tyler Perry (smirking lawyer), and Sela Ward and Missi Pyle as [illegible] TV talk show hosts. More down to earth and therefore more personally frightening than anything in Fincher's résumé since Zodiac (149 min.) (K.V.)

The Grand Budapest Hotel Wes Anderson [illegible] early-20th-century Middle Europe with the [illegible] hotel concierge (Ralph Fiennes, in top form), [illegible] to Hollywood. As usual with Anderson [illegible] country of Zubrowka, played by Tony Revolori. With Adrien Brody, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Harvey Keitel, Jude Law, Bill Murray, Saoirse Ronan, Edward Norton, Tom Wilkinson, and many, many more. It all adds up to one of Anderson's most appealing [illegible] (100 min.) (K.V.)

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies [illegible] J.R.R. Tolkien's [illegible] Peter Jackson's [illegible] the adventures of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) [illegible] to the reunion of Bilbo and his [illegible] Gandalf (Ian McKellen). We've seen more than enough pointy-eared and shaggy-haired creatures in gloomy forests. We get it. Let's all move on. Costarring Cate Blanchett, Evangeline Lilly, Christopher Lee, Orlando Bloom, [illegible] Armitage, [illegible] Ryan Gage, and the voice of Benedict Cumberbatch. Screenplay by Philippa Boyens, Fran Walsh, Guillermo del Toro, and Jackson. (144 min.) (K.V.)

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 Well, it's definitely the first half of a movie. And it's a pretty uneven film. But I'd say that even though it's not nearly as satisfying [illegible] as Catching Fire, it's better than the [illegible] half of the book [illegible] Suzanne Collins's young-adult trilogy — and its biggest weaknesses may simply be a symptom of [illegible] year's concluding installment. [illegible] For the most part, director Francis Lawrence [illegible] brought to the screen [illegible] Catching Fire, [illegible] putting the characters into actual space, [illegible] they're facing. [illegible] There's not much action in this film, [illegible] Zero Dark Thirty [illegible] as Mockingjay [illegible] including the very [illegible] Philip Seymour Hoffman [illegible] Hunger Games film [illegible] half of Mockingjay [illegible] making it worth (123 min.) (K.C.)

The Imitation Game [illegible] Benedict Cumberbatch [illegible] portrayal of Alan Turing, the real-life [illegible] mathematician and cryptographer who cracked the German Enigma code and helped the Allies win World War II [illegible] Turing, a gay man, was cruelly persecuted for his homosexuality in the postwar years is dealt with in the closing titles. [illegible] Morten Tyldum's [illegible] Keira Knightley [illegible] adapted from Andrew Hodges's book by screenwriter Graham Moore. With Matthew Goode and Charles Dance (114 min.) (K.V.)

Interstellar Christopher Nolan's [illegible] Matthew McConaughey's [illegible] planets [illegible] dying from climate change. On board with the [illegible] pilot are Anne Hathaway, Matt Damon, and [illegible]

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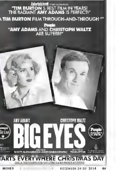

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[illegible] Jessica Chastain, Michael Caine, Casey Affleck, and John Lithgow (169 min.). (KV)

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb [illegible] (97 min.).

Nightcrawler Jake Gyllenhaal is [illegible] Dan Gilroy's [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

(Gyllenhaal) and [illegible] of Los Angeles. [illegible] (117 min.). (KV)

Rosewater [illegible] The Daily Show [illegible] Jon Stewart [illegible] (103 min.). (N. L.)

St. Vincent St. Vincent [illegible] Bill Murray [illegible] The Royal Tenenbaums [illegible] Bad Santa [illegible] St. Vincent is [illegible]

The New Parkway hosts R. Kelly's *Trapped in the Closet* Sing-along Friday

[illegible] as *Law & Order: SVU* [illegible] (102 min.). (N. M.)

The Tale of the Princess Kaguya [illegible] (137 min.).

The Theory of Everything Stephen Hawking [illegible] Eddie Redmayne [illegible] (123 min.). (B.)

Top Five [illegible] Chris Rock's new film, *Top Five*, [illegible] The Entertainer. [illegible] Whoopi Goldberg. [illegible] (101 min.). (C. M.)

Whiplash [illegible] Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons [illegible] Paul Reiser and Melissa Benoist (106 min.). (KV)

Wild [illegible] Cheryl Strayed [illegible] Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern [illegible] (115 min.). (KV)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Elf (97 min., 2003). (The New Parkway 12:15)

Edward Scissorhands (105 min., 1990). Parkway [illegible] 8:30).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

R. Kelly's Trapped in the Closet Sing-Along (2005). (Parkway 10:30)

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[illegible]

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INTO THE WOODS (PG)
[illegible]

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GONE GIRL
(3:15) 7:45 R
[illegible] Best Picture, Drama, and Best Director!
BOYHOOD
(1:30 3:30) 6:45 R
NIGHTCRAWLER
(5:15) 9:50 R
NATIONAL GALLERY
(12:00) NR
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(12:00) R
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(3D) FRI–THUR: 12:15, 7:00
(2D) FRI–TUE, THUR: 3:45 10:00
(2D) WED: 3:45
THE IMITATION GAME (PG13)
FRI–TUE, THUR: 11:45, 2:15, 4:35 7:20* 9:50*
WED: 11:45, 2:15 4:35 7:30*
*Shown upstairs
INTO THE WOODS (PG)
FRI–TUE, THUR: 11:30, 2:00 4:45 7:15* 9:45*
WED: 11:30 2:00 4:45, 7:15*
*Shown upstairs
THE GAMBLER (R)
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WED: 11:40, 1:45 4:15, 6:45
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Including albums from The Classical, Christopher Owens, RedRedRed, The Fresh & Onlys, and Cocktails.

By Sam Lefebvre

Albums aren't the best way to assess a year in music. Critics remain partial to them because we have the luxury of listening attentively and actively for long periods of time. That approach privileges rock music, a genre that long ago decided on albums as its mode of serious artistic statement. So, the fact that the list below doesn't include rap, for instance, does not mean 2014 was bad for local rap. On the contrary: Lil B's golden "No Black Person Is Ugly" struck me as the song of the year. Tia Nomore emerged as one of the most striking new sources, old-guard local rappers such as E-40 and The Jacka issued career highlights, Queens D.Light released a stunning debut, and the lyricism on Kool A.D.'s *Word O.K.* rewarded close listening. Likewise, excellent industrial techno sets by artists such as Obsidian Blade existed mostly as live, ephemeral experiences, while staggering electronic statements from Cube and Waxy Tomb appeared only on cassette tapes — not to mention format-defying projects by Holly Herndon and Styrofoam Sanchez. Meanwhile, great hardcore bands such as Replica, Ritual Control, and Violence Creeps stuck to tapes and seven-inches.

All of this is to say, the selection below is inadequate for assessing the year in local output as a whole. We'll publish a more inclusive year-end feature online, incorporating more formats, genres, and contributor opinions. For now, the selection below recommends five full-length statements from local acts in 2014.

Christopher Owens

A New Testament

Romantic gestures, with their perceived conviction and earnestness, make clichés not just forgivable, but charming. The things we wince at in commercials are often endearing, sometimes devastatingly so, in real life. On Christopher Owens' second solo album, *A New Testament*, the former Girls leader indulges mightily in romantic tropes and their genre-based Americana analogs: bleary-eyed soul, sad-sack country, and bleeding heart balladry. As the title's religious allusion suggests, Owens asks for listeners' faith in *A New Testament*. Telling looks in lovers' eyes and keys to hearts abound in the lyrics, with Owens' breathy, wispy delivery intimating his authenticity. They're songs, you think, he's putting it on. Sure, but the craft shaping Owens' songs disarms suspicion. Like the best pop, *A New Testament* urges suspension of disbelief and then rewards it in kind. (Turnstile)

RedRedRed's Michael Wood.

Melissa Jay Bichetz

The Classical

Diptych

The Classical, a duo composed of Rott Ciampa and Juliet Gordon, self-released *Diptych* online in early December, a move that no one in the music industry would recommend. And yet, it's such an accomplished, wholly engaging album — singularly composed and fraught with a complex, vivid emotional range — that it significantly raises the aggregate value of local music released in the preceding eleven months. A maverick collection of songs nurtured by little outside of its creators' vision (The Classical has no record label, no press agent, no manager and not much of a regional profile), *Diptych* is emblematic of the Bay Area as a place where creative invention occurs on the margins. Local music features so many stratified scenes that listeners tend to align themselves with the best of a kind at year's end. *Diptych* is an argument for shedding genre allegiance. (Self-released)

Cocktails

Adult Life

Power-pop, that new wave offshoot that values hooks over virtuosity (and even wagers that a dearth of the latter can be a boon to the former), thematically traffics in joys and crises told from a teenage perspective, viewing immediate surroundings through a melodramatic microscope. On the 2013 singles "Winner" and "Friday," Cocktails worked deftly within those constraints. On *Adult Life*, Cocktails shifted into the power-pop's grown-up perspective: preoccupied with earning a living. But, there's a twist. Where such lyrical territory typically exalts an imagined American working-class experience and celebrates a culturally constructed idea of the everyman, *Adult Life* is pretty cynical. The title track lists grievances — abandoned dreams, loans, weekend mall expeditions, and so on (*That is what you worked for isn't it?* Patrick Cline sings) — and just when you think rock 'n' roll or love is about to intervene and make it all worthwhile, the song ends. The next track, "Down & Out," opens with a line about how not even coffee works like it used to. *Adult Life* handles power-pop's musical conventions fantastically, but the lyrics' pushback against the style's thematic expectations makes it an exceptional listen, and, with the everyman systematically crushed in this country, a necessary one. (Father/Daughter)

RedRedRed

Pattern Completion

The attention to detail on *Pattern Completion* immediately distinguishes Michael Wood's debut album as RedRedRed from the outpour of music featuring vintage synths this year. Where blank-wave practitioners tend to process vocals beyond recognition, Wood enunciates crisp commands that reflect the dictatorial cadence of his music. Instead of aimless grooves, Wood instills every track on *Pattern Completion* with deliberate, purposeful arrangements by adding and subtracting clamorous layers. It leaves the impression of a cyclical alternation between distinct shapes. Synths empower players to sculpt individual tones by carving out parts of sine waves — an asset that Wood takes advantage of, rather than leaning on stock settings. With the Bay Area serving as a preliminary staging ground for the ramifications of new technology, the politics of oppressive electronic music felt especially significant this year. With an aesthetic evoking a dystopian landscape of automation, suppressed desire, and centralized power, *Pattern Completion*'s appeal is pervasively resonant. (Dark Entries)

The Fresh & Onlys

House of Spirits

In the era of the SoundCloud track dump, remix-laden throwaway EPs, and countless promotional gimmicks aimed at guiding one track into a lucrative sync deal, The Fresh & Onlys subscribe to an arguably outdated model that nevertheless seems to better reward devoted listening. Between the six distinctly nuanced and engrossing albums the band has released since 2009, it has issued more than a dozen EPs. Each one featured rewarding songs (especially 2013's *Soothsayer* EP), though they were often tellingly different from the adjacent full-length releases. Omitting great songs for the sake of full-length cohesion is a largely forsaken maneuver, but it can turn records from collections of songs into proper albums. Departing lyrically from arrestingly strange dream imagery toward a sober awakening halfway through, *House of Spirits*' thematic diligence plants it firmly in the latter category. (Mexican Summer) ●

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HOMEBODY HITS NUMBER ONE

East Bay producer NanosauR enters the world of commercial pop with Dev, an old high school friend — but eschews the spotlight.

By Nastia Voynovskaya

East Bay producer and DJ Michael Solorzano got the moniker NanosauR from a 1990s computer game in which an intelligent dinosaur travels back in time to save his kind from extinction. The reference speaks to NanosauR's eight bit-inspired sound. Whether making lo-fi, glitchy instrumentals for his solo project or producing glossy club bangers, a nostalgic, early digital aesthetic informs his approach. He has produced for internet famous rappers such as Antwon, Lil B, and Chippy Nonstop, but his recent work with singer Dev, a high school friend and emerging star, has thrust NanosauR into the world of commercial pop. *Bittersweet July, Pt. 2*, a Dev EP featuring NanosauR's production, became the bestseller on iTunes' electronic music chart earlier this month — a significant feat for a 26-year-old who still makes music out of his parents' house in Oakley.

Though he boasts a sizable following as a solo artist, NanosauR prefers operating behind the scenes. He frequently spins DJ sets at various Oakland and San Francisco clubs, but as a producer NanosauR partners with artists who already have marketable images and flamboyant Twitter personas so that he can avoid the spotlight.

"My solo music hasn't been my number-one focus lately," NanosauR said in an interview. Still, the beginning of 2014 saw the release of his EP *Bottled Promises*, which features down-tempo tracks with breathy vocal samples and a somber use of Auto-Tune. The project's melancholic sound evokes moody R&B act The Weeknd as well as one of NanosauR's biggest influences, The Postal Service. It was widely heard and appreciated, but the producer has since been happily preoccupied with making music for Dev. "Going hard for someone else means my sound is still going to get played," he said.

Dev and NanosauR met on MySpace in 2006. Two bored high school kids in the East Bay suburbs, they discovered they lived near each other and began to collaborate. Shortly after Dev started college, producers The Cataracs heard her cover of an Amy Winehouse song online and invited her to work with them in LA. The move was fortuitous. Dev became known for her vocals on Far East Movement's Cataracs-produced hit, "Like a G6." Meanwhile, NanosauR took the DIY route, quietly releasing tracks on SoundCloud and collaborating with friends from the local hip-hop scene. Although his recent projects with Dev under the label Rera Lyfe Records have exposed him to the world of professional recording, he typically works alone in his bedroom.

While *Bottled Promises* explored lo-fi instrumentals, NanosauR's work with Dev demonstrates a knack for composing grandiose tracks with radio potential. Following his solo EP, the duo released their first joint effort, *Not All Love Songs Have to Be So Sad*. It included new songs with both of their vocals as well as a track from their MySpace days, "Everything I Do." The collaboration was a mellow indie warm-up to Dev's more polished pop EP, *Bittersweet July*. Produced by NanosauR, *Bittersweet July* is an upbeat party soundtrack pulsating with house beats, climactic build-ups, and bass drops. The release was well received and peaked at sixteen on Billboard's Dance/Electronic Albums chart.

NanosauR. Raymond Solorzano

NanosauR's intricate production set *Bittersweet July* apart as a pop record. Though elements of trap and EDM are present in his beats, he adds intriguing twists to these popular genres. Seemingly incongruous styles are blended together on the same tracks. His vintage video game-inspired sound is a nod to his indie roots.

Immediately after the record's release, NanosauR and Dev went to work on their follow-up EP, *Bittersweet July, Pt. 2*. The second project carries over the upbeat bounciness of the first EP, albeit with more sophistication. While *Bittersweet July*'s strength is its variety, *Pt. 2* is darker, bass-driven, and more danceable. NanosauR and Dev's collaboration seems to have become more cohesive. His thumping beats reflect the self-assured swagger she projects in her lyrics. His synth-driven melodies complement the catchiness of her hooks.

"I look up to Dev as a mentor, to be honest," NanosauR said. "I've never been able to do as much as I have been doing until now. I really admire how hard-working she is, as well as her whole team, which I'm very thankful to be a part of now. It means a lot that she believes in me so much that she lets me produce these crazy beats for her."

Despite NanosauR's reluctance to be the center of attention, his work with Dev seems to be getting his music the recognition it deserves. In the months leading up to the release of *Bittersweet July, Pt. 2*, he toured the country with Dev as her DJ. "Seeing how her fans react to the music in person is so cool," he exclaimed. "It pushes me even harder to top myself with the music we make." Though they initially took divergent paths, NanosauR and Dev have thrived in their renewed creative relationship. NanosauR doesn't have plans to move out of his parents' place yet, but his propensity for pop production will undoubtedly lead to bigger things. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details
NanosauR plays with The Hood Internet, MPHD and Sad Andy on Dec. 27 at 9 p.m. at the Mezzanine (444 Jessie St., San Francisco). $18. MezzanineSF.com

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Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 7 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 6 p.m., $5

Red Raider [illegible], The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

The Lost Hippies Starry Plough, 6-8:30 p.m., free

Funk Music R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Holiday Music

The Fourth Annual [illegible] [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $TBA

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Top of The Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $20

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $20, $25

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $10+

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., free

Red Raider [illegible], The Alley, 9 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] The New Parish, 9 p.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7 p.m., $6

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible], 10 p.m., $5, $10

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $10

The [illegible] [illegible], 9 & 10 p.m., $10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 & 10 p.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m.-midnight, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $10-$15

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible], 5-8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $10, $12

X w/ The Fillmore, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $65

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $10, $15

SATURDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $36, $40

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 p.m., $12, $15

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 p.m., free

[illegible] The Sound [illegible], 7 p.m., $15

[illegible] [illegible], The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible], 7 p.m., $TBA

[illegible] [illegible], 7 p.m., $TBA

[illegible] [illegible], 7 p.m., $TBA

[illegible] [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] [illegible], 7 p.m., free

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

The [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $7

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $10

The Spinners [illegible], 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $42

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 4 p.m., free

The Crossing [illegible], 9 p.m., $17

[illegible] [illegible], 7:30 & 11 p.m., $22

[illegible] [illegible], 10:30 a.m.-11:15 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] The Addition, 8 & 10 p.m., $30

Rock & Pop

The Best of The Bay [illegible], Top of the Mark, 9-12:30 a.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m., $20

[illegible] [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $20

The First [illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $24, $26

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $10

Japanese Baby [illegible], 9 p.m., $8, $11

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $8, $12

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $15

[illegible] [illegible], Amnesia, 9 p.m., $7

[illegible] [illegible], 10 p.m., $6

X w/ The Fillmore, The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $38

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., $10

SUNDAY 28

EAST BAY

All Ages

Kotki Superio [illegible], 7-8 p.m., free

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 1 p.m., free

Sunday Morning [illegible] The Sable, Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz and R&B Night [illegible], 6-10 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 6 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 3-6 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 8 p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

The Spinners [illegible], 7 & 9 p.m., $38

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible], 10 p.m., $10

[illegible] [illegible], 3 p.m., free

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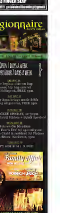
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The Fuxedos.

The First Satanic Church Presents Black X-Mass

Almost fifty years ago, Anton LaVey founded the Church of Satan — he was a compelling showman, challenge to biographers, and patriarch of an embattled family. His daughter Karla LaVey, founder of her own First Satanic Church, presents Black X-Mass on Thursday at the Elbo Room (647 Valencia St., San Francisco). A look at the tenets of the First Satanic Church posted on its website describe a vague ideology of individualism and personal accountability with particular emphasis on not thrusting personal dogma on others. Indulge, Karla and the cabal suggest, perhaps with a concert: Black X-Mass features Pachuco Cadaver, a Captain Beefheart tribute act, along with The Fuxedos, an outfit whose online videos conjure the diabolical funhouse appeal tapped by Danny Elfman and his work on the cult 1980 film *The Forbidden Zone*, among others. The First Satanic Church keeps a low profile online nowadays, declaring on its site a preference for in-person interaction, but the ritual possibilities for Black X-Mass remain rather titillating, especially considering what's known about Karla's inheritance from her late father: one Satan Doll pinball machine, an examination table, coffin, and a skull ritual chamber. — *Sam Lefebvre*

Thursday, Dec. 25, 9 p.m., $10. Elbo.com

The Time Flys

In the East Bay imagination, garage rock is typically marked by kitsch, a debt to the melodramatic lyricism of 1960s groups such as the Shangri-Las, and a transparent influence of The Ramones (who were, not coincidentally, indebted to kitsch and 1960s girl-group melodrama.) But the unapologetically retro style of groups like Shannon & the Clams, Personal & the Pizzas, and Hunx & his Punx were preceded in the East Bay by The Time Flys, a mid-2000s act that garnered a fervent following but didn't enjoy the same breakout success. The Time Flys, of course, took inspiration from regional acts in the 1990s such as Supercharger, The Mummies, and The Trashwomen, who rallied around the era's prominent Estrus Records. The Trashwomen's Tina Lucchesi has since recently helmed Midnite Snaxxx, a band that joins a reunited Time Flys on December 31 at The Night Light (311 Broadway, Oakland) for a lineup celebrating multiple generations of kitsch, melodrama, and love of The Ramones. So, who's next? Perhaps Pookie & the Poodlez. It's tradition. — *S.L.*

Wednesday, Dec 31, 9 p.m., $10. TheNightLightOakland.com

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SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Brunch with Sweet Perfect & evening guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $39, includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Trio The Addition, 2 & 7 p.m., $[illegible]

[illegible] Top of the Mark, 10 p.m., [illegible] $79 per adult [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] p.m., and

Rock & Pop

Camper Van Beethoven w/ [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m., $25

[illegible] [illegible] Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Chapel, 8 p.m., $12-$15

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Billy the Kid [illegible] 7 p.m., $20

Matt Jaffe & The Distractions w/ The [illegible] Top of the Hill, 7 p.m., $12

[illegible] Amnesia, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] & the [illegible] 7 & 9 p.m., $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible] People, Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Mezzanine, 9 p.m., $5-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] 5 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Salsa Sunday w/ a rotating lineup of [illegible] and DJ Emotions, El Rio, 4 p.m., $8; [illegible] $10 after

MONDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Sound, [illegible] 7 p.m. and

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Craig Browning and Friends The Riverside Lounge, 5 p.m. free

Larry Vuckovich's Dexter Gordon Tribute Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $29

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Acoustic Blues Jam w/ rotating lineup of [illegible] songwriters each week, [illegible], 7 p.m. free

Bluegrass Mondays feat. evening guests, Amnesia, 9 p.m. and

[illegible] and Blues [illegible] Cafe, 6 p.m. and

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Le Colonial, 7 p.m. and

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] The Addition, [illegible] p.m., $[illegible]

TUESDAY 30

EAST BAY

All Ages

[illegible] [illegible] guests and [illegible] collaborates with local [illegible] for an evening of music from various genres, [illegible] 6-8 p.m., and

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22, $[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 7:30 p.m., $12

[illegible] Trio Caffe Trieste, 7:30-9:30 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible] jazz with guest vocalist [illegible], The Alley, 9 p.m. free

[illegible] [illegible], 6 p.m. free

[illegible] Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Punk Night at the Stork Club w/ [illegible], [illegible], Stork Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Art Bar, [illegible] & 11:30 p.m. and

[illegible] Art Bar, 7 p.m. and

[illegible] Amnesia, 9:15 p.m., $[illegible]

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] [illegible], 8:30 p.m., free

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Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Big Band [illegible] Yoshi's San [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ The [illegible], Light/Fantastic, and DJ Andy [illegible]. The Chapel, 8 p.m., $15, $18

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible]. The Rickshaw, 8:30 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] 8 p.m., $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible]. [illegible] Music Hall, 8 p.m., $21

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Center, 8:30 p.m., $60

[illegible] 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible], 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Eric [illegible] The [illegible], 8 & 10 p.m., $40

[illegible] / James Hunter [illegible] The Fillmore, 7 p.m., $40

WEDNESDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Hot Buttered Rum w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $35, $40

New Year's Eve Bluegrass Bonanza / High Country, [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $28, $31

[illegible] Traditional Irish Music [illegible] w/ [illegible] / [illegible]. The [illegible], 6:30 p.m., free

[illegible] Rhythm. [illegible], 7 & 10 p.m., $30, $40

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] New Year's Eve [illegible] w/ [illegible], 7:30 p.m., $15

[illegible] 8-11 p.m., free

The [illegible] New Year's Eve [illegible] w/ [illegible] Sound [illegible], 8 p.m., $50, $60

[illegible] 7 p.m., $60

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Sound Room, 8 p.m., $75

[illegible] The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Primus The Fox Theater, 8 p.m., $50, $60

[illegible] New Year's Eve w/ [illegible] 10 p.m., free

[illegible] 8 p.m., $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

New Years Eve [illegible] / [illegible] James [illegible] tribute [illegible], 9 p.m., $15-$60

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 p.m., $40, $50

[illegible], 10 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night w/ Reggae [illegible], 7-11 p.m., free

[illegible] New Year's [illegible] w/ [illegible] [illegible] Tradicion, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m., $25-$35

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] 8 p.m., free

Eric [illegible], 10 p.m., free

[illegible] Music Hall, 8 p.m., $30, $35

[illegible] Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 p.m., $0

[illegible] 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] New Year's Eve [illegible] w/ Sugar Candy [illegible] The Chapel, 8 p.m., $30, $35

The Flaming Lips w/ [illegible] The Bold and, 8 p.m., $65, $75

[illegible] New Year's Eve [illegible], 8 p.m., $12, $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $40

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $45

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m., $17, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $20

STRFKR / [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m., sold out

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 p.m., $30, $40

[illegible] The [illegible], 10 p.m., $100

[illegible] New Year's Eve Party w/ [illegible] & 10 p.m., $40-$130

Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $100

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[illegible] 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] College Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

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[illegible] 1914 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 1th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

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[illegible] Mile High Club 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Lounge 10 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

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[illegible] 2120 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

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[illegible] Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Concord, 925-[illegible]

[illegible] 2367 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

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[illegible] Art Museum 2120 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 25

EAST BAY

Deep Beat Lounge 3411, 9 p.m., free
DJ Ross on Demand w/ a Bar and [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m.
DJ Ross Audio The Layover, 10 p.m., free
DJ Night funk-a-delic pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Rip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free
Fire Thursdays w/ [illegible], Polo, Den, free guests spinning reggae, dancehall, free area. Era Art Bar and Lounge, 10 p.m., $8
Golden Era Thursdays w/ resident [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist, [illegible], Vinyl in Venue Oakland, 10 p.m., free before 11 p.m., $5 after
I Love Hip-Hop Thursdays w/ Up Next open mic, hosted by DJ Jukebox and [illegible] spinning all hip-hop from old-school throwbacks to new stage [illegible] underground rap, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., free
The Jump Off Hip-Hop w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $8-$10
The Soul Congregation w/ Jose Ortiz, DJ Aware, and [illegible] spinning Latin, Afro, soul, reggae, funk, cumbia, and more, The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free
Strictly Vinyl bring your own vinyl to play, Awaken Cafe, 7 p.m., free
Study Break White Horse Inn, 11 p.m.-midnight, free
Ultra Wave s / Dia Funk, Baba Des, and [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $TBA

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

Blue Sugar house, old school, hip-hop, free latin, [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., free
Club Fist w/ [illegible], Allan [illegible], The [illegible] Go Go Dancers, [illegible], The Golden Bull, 9 p.m., $7
DJ [illegible] Beat Music [illegible] Karibbean City, 4 p.m.
DJ Night funk-a-delic pop, mind-blowing rock, free urban hip-hop, Rip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free
DJ White Mass Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Push [illegible] drum & bass, Lounge 3411, 9 p.m., $5
Escape with DJ [illegible] The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Fake Fourth Fridays / [illegible], Bar Three Fifty-Five, 10 p.m., free
Friday Night Salsa w/ guest [illegible] spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 p.m., $5
Funk w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, soul, disco, funk, and world music, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., $5
Hip-Hop Power Sessions / [illegible], Club 1220, 9 p.m., $8
The Jump Off [illegible], Jupiter, 9 p.m., free
Knock Knees Eighties, [illegible] the Aughts Parliament, 9 p.m., $TBA
The Legion of Dope w/ DJ [illegible] spinning nothing but that slap beat and fools with lyrics, The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free
A Night of Classic Hip-Hop Bar the Vinyl Archaeologist [illegible] Golden Era, The Punk Dandy, 10 p.m., free before 11 p.m., $5
Old-School hip-hop and funk, [illegible], 9 p.m., free
[illegible] Top 40, 2000s, [illegible] EDM, Parliament, 9 p.m., $TBA
Thump s / [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $5 after 11pm
[illegible] Fridays / DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], salsa, cumbia, salsa, merengue, dancehall, reggae, bhangra, Arabic, urban, free more, Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 27

EAST BAY

The Black Yard hosted by Sean Kennedy, Moses Music, 2 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ DJ Triple spinning [illegible] Eighties hits, Conga Lounge, 10 p.m., free
Fresh [illegible] / DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., $8 before 11 p.m.
Damaged Goods / DJ Squid and [illegible] spinning [illegible] Eighties new wave and post-punk, Bar Three Fifty-Five, 9 p.m., free
DJ [illegible] [illegible] Locker, 8 p.m., free
DJ Night funk-a-delic pop, mind-blowing rock, and urban hip-hop, Rip's Restaurant, 8:30 p.m., free
Happy Hours w/ DJ Golden Gates spinning punk, rock, [illegible], The Missouri Lounge, 6:30 p.m., free
Lost Saturdays w/ DJ Loss spinning club mixes, Latin beats, hip-hop, free more, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., free before 9 p.m., $3 after
Lift w/ [illegible] DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] hip-hop, free soul, Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m., $10
Magic w/ DJ [illegible] free guests spinning a genre-surfing extravaganza, Reighards Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free
NYE [illegible] w/ DJ Willie [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] the soulful sound from the norm, w/ DJ [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., $5 after 11pm
Reggae Night w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Paradise Club, 9 p.m., $TBA
Sensation Saturdays w/ [illegible] spinning Somar hip-hop, [illegible] and world [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after
The Love [illegible] dance, soul, and resident [illegible], 9 p.m., $7
[illegible] The New Parish, 9 p.m., $5

SUNDAY 28

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] w/ special guest [illegible], Ruby Room, 9 p.m., free
Fiesta [illegible] by [illegible], 4 p.m., free
King of Kings Reggae Sundays w/ [illegible] Young Fyah and Natural spinning reggae, dancehall, and [illegible], The New Parish, 10 p.m.
Punk Rock Sideshow w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hardcore, punk, free [illegible], The Golden Bull, 9 p.m., free
SIP Sunday Somar Party [illegible] Top 40, [illegible], Parliament, 2 p.m., $TBA
[illegible] Sundays w/ DJ [illegible] and DJ [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

MONDAY 29

EAST BAY

Metal Mondays / rotating DJs spinning all styles of metal every monday, The Golden Bull, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] on Mondays w/ [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free
Underground Lounge special [illegible] free [illegible], Seventies music, [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
Wanna Boogie Out? big beat girl groups, soul, R&B, power pop nuggets, proto punk [illegible] party rock hits, and more, Bar Three Fifty-Five, 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 30

EAST BAY

Layla [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, and dub, The Layover, 10 p.m.
[illegible] Somar Bar & Lounge, 8 p.m., $TBA
Steady [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., free

PICK

POPNYE

Even the website for POPNYE is an event. A central image presents glowing knobs and gleaming firework explosions, while a high-production-value trailer depicts an arena full of flashing lights and crazed fans in fabulous costumes pogo-ing up and down to an insistent four-on-the-floor thump. A voiceover welcomes "dreamers" and promises "glimmers of bliss falling like rain" on a journey toward self-fulfillment in the New Year. On YouTube, the POPNYE video has more views than some rock bands amass in a career. And apparently the website is still under construction. It confirms the obvious: EDM is a phenomenon. The event features a Dutch dance invasion composed of producers Armin van Buuren and Bingo Players, along with the duo Firebeatz and the San Francisco outfit The M Machine, who'll offer strains of house and trance for the eager throngs descending once again on Oracle Arena (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland) for this year's POPNYE. — *Sam Lefebvre*

Wednesday, Dec 31, 6 p.m., $75–$250. POPNYE.com

WEDNESDAY 31

EAST BAY

The [illegible] house, funk, soul, electronica, hip-hop, Latin, Afrobeat, free more, Vinyl [illegible] Oakland, 9:30 p.m., $12
Good Times w/ [illegible], and [illegible] Smith and [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., free
The Jet Set w/ DJ Kurious free special guests, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Karaoke [illegible] / DJ [illegible], The Layover, 9 p.m., free
NYE at KBC reggae dance hip-hop w/ [illegible] Big Von, Young Fyah, [illegible], New Karibbean City, 10 p.m., $TBA
POPNYE w/ Armin Van Buuren, Bingo Players, [illegible], Firebeatz, The M Machine, [illegible] Oracle Arena, 6 p.m., $50-$150
Reggae Saloon w/ DJ [illegible], The Legionnaire Saloon, 9 p.m., free
[illegible]world w/ DJ Terrible Tommy spinning everything from doo-wop to punk rock from the Fifties through the Nineties, Merchant's Saloon, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
[illegible] / DJ [illegible] spinning house, old school hip-hop, and Latin music, Bench and Bar, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] NYE w/ [illegible], Somar [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $10, $15
World Wide Wednesday w/ DJ [illegible], Somar Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free
[illegible] NYE w/ [illegible], Kool A.D., [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m., $27-$35

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

Horoscopes for the week of December 25–31

By Rob Brezsny

Aries (March 21–April 19): "Hell is the suffering of being unable to love," wrote novelist J. D. Salinger. Using that definition, I'm happy to announce that you have a good chance of avoiding hell altogether in 2015. If there has been any deficiency in your power to express and bestow love, I think you will correct it. If you have been so intent on getting love that you have been neglectful in giving love, you will switch your focus. I invite you to keep a copy of this horoscope in your wallet for the next twelve months. Regard it as your "Get Out of Hell Free" card.

Taurus (April 20–May 20): Beetles are abundant and ubiquitous. Scientists have identified more than 350,000 species, and they are always discovering new ones. In 2011, for example, they conferred official recognition on 3,485 additional types of beetles. I'm seeing a parallel development in your life, Taurus. A common phenomenon that you take for granted harbors mysteries that are worth exploring. Something you regard as quite familiar actually contains interesting features you don't know about. In 2015, I hope you will open your mind to the novelties and curios that are hidden in plain sight.

Gemini (May 21–June 20): Auguste Escoffier (1846–1935) was an influential French chef who defined and standardized the five "mother sauces." But he wasn't content to be a star in his own country. At the age of 44, he began his "conquest of London," bringing his spectacular dining experience to British restaurants. He thought it might be hard to sell his new clientele on frog legs, a traditional French dish, so he resorted to trickery. On the menu, he listed it as "Nymphs of the Dawn." According to my reading of the omens, this is an example of the hocus-pocus that will be your specialty in 2015. And I suspect you will get away with it every time as long as your intention is not selfish or manipulative, but rather generous and constructive.

Cancer (June 21–July 22): The entomologist Charles P. Alexander (1889–1981) devoted much of his professional life to analyzing the insect known as the crane fly. He identified over 11,000 different species, drew 15,000 illustrations of the creatures, and referred to his lab as "Crane Fly Haven." That's the kind of single-minded intention I'd love to see you adopt during the first six months of 2015, Cancerian. What I'm imagining is that you will choose a specific, well-defined area within which you will gleefully explore and experiment and improvise. Is there a subject or task or project you would have fun pursuing with that kind of intensity?

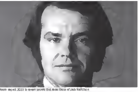
Leo (July 23–Aug. 22): In Don DeLillo's novel *Underworld*, Cotter Martin is a young boy living in New York in the 1950s. The following description is of him: "In school they tell him sometimes to stop looking out the window. This teacher or that teacher. The answer is not out there, they tell him. And he always wants to say that's exactly where the answer is." I propose we regard this passage as one of your themes in 2015, Leo. In other words, be skeptical of any authority who tells you where you should or should not be searching for the answers. Follow your own natural inclination, even if at first it seems to be nothing more than looking out the window.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "It is always important to know when something has reached its end," writes Paulo Coelho in his book *The Zahir*. Use that advice heroically in 2015, Virgo. Wield it to clear away anything that no longer serves you — that weighs you down or holds you back. Prepare the way for the new story that will begin for you around your next birthday. "Closing circles, shutting doors, finishing chapters," Coelho says, "it doesn't matter what we call it; what matters is to leave in the past those moments in life that are over."

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): "On some nights I still believe," said gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson, "that a car with the gas needle on empty can run about fifty more miles if you have the right music very loud on the radio." In 2015, I invite you to adopt some of that push-it-to-the-edge attitude for your personal use, Libra. Maybe not full-time; maybe not with the same manic intensity that Thompson did. Rather, simply tap into it as needed — whenever you've got to up your game or raise your intensity level or rouse the extra energy you need to achieve *wondrous, resounding victory*!! The coming months will be your time to go all the way, hold nothing back, and quest for the best and the most and the highest.

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Twenty miles long, the Onyx River is the longest body of moving water on the continent of Antarctica. Most of the year it's ice, though. It actually flows for just two or three months during the summer. Let's hope that continues to be the case for the foreseeable future. It would be a shame if global warming got so extreme that the Onyx melted permanently. But now let's talk about your own metaphorical equivalent of the Onyx: a potentially flowing part of your life that is often frozen. I'd love to see it heat up and thaw. I'd love it to be streaming and surging most of the time. And in 2015, I think that's a distinct possibility. Consider making the following declaration your battle cry: I am the Flow Master!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "The best way to keep a prisoner from escaping is to make sure he never knows he's in prison." That quote is attributed to two Russian authors, Fyodor Dostoevsky and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Regardless of who said it, I urge you to keep it in mind throughout 2015. Like all of us, you are trapped in an invisible prison: a set of beliefs or conditioned responses or bad habits that limit your freedom to act. That's the bad news. The good news is that, in the coming months, you are poised to discover the exact nature of your invisible prison, and then escape it.



Capricorn: expect 2015 to reveal secrets that rival those of Jack Nicholson

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): When he was 37 years old, actor Jack Nicholson found out that Ethel May, the woman he had always called his mother, was, in fact, his grandma. Furthermore, his "older sister" June was actually his mom, who had given birth to him when she was 17. His relatives had hidden the truth from him. I suspect that in 2015 you will uncover secrets and missing information that will rival Nicholson's experience. Although these revelations may initially be confusing or disruptive, in the long run they will heal and liberate you. Welcome them!

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): "Mouparesuma" is an English word that refers to a sexual adventure in which only one of the participants has a good time. I'll be bold and predict that you will not experience a single instance of mouparesuma in 2015. That's because I expect you'll be steadily upgrading your levels of empathy and your capacity for reciprocity. You will be getting better and better at listening to your intimate allies and reading their emotional signals. I predict that synergy and symbiosis will be your specialties. Both your desire to please and your skill at giving pleasure will increase, as will your understanding of how many benefits you can reap by being a responsive partner.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20): "Be good and you will be lonesome," said Mark Twain. Do you agree? I don't — at least as it applies to your life in 2015. According to my understanding of the long-term astrological omens, you will attract an abundance of love and luck by being good — by expressing generosity, deepening your compassion, cultivating integrity, and working for justice and truth and beauty. That doesn't mean you should be a pushover or doormat. Your resolve to be good must be leavened by a determination to deepen your self-respect. Your eagerness to do the right thing has to include a commitment to raising your levels of self-care. ●

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ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

SAVAGE LOVE

ONLY THE LONELY

How to make it through the holidays

By Dan Savage

I'm a short guy and I need advice. I don't want a small paragraph's worth of advice, like you gave "Below Their League." I need advice beyond "Women like men taller than them, get over it!" I get it. I'm short (five foot two), and most women are taller than me. And women like tall dudes just like I like slender women. Fat women may have it hard, but at least they have their fans and their own sex-object abbreviation, BBW. But where can a short guy go to feel appreciated?

Jesus Christ, I'm Lonely

"Below Their League," who wrote to me in August of 2010, described himself as a short slender guy who was only attracted to tall, butch women. He longed to be held in the strong arms of a woman who could snap him in two — and he wasn't having much luck. This was the totality of my advice for him: "Most women prefer men who are taller than they are. It's a sad, unavoidable fact, JCIL, one you'll have to accept (just as I had to accept that most men prefer women), and you'll have to search harder for the lady/lady arms of your dreams. Not much else you can do about it."

I think that advice is solid, JCIL, but I can see why it would be unsatisfying. So here are a few bonus paragraphs for you.

Some big, beautiful women (BBWs) resent their "fans," aka "fat admirers" (FAs), as they find the attentions of fat fetishists to be objectifying and emotionally fraught. (Particularly when their "admirers" are struggling with shame and want to date them only on the down low.) But here's why fat women have their own sex-object abbreviation and their admirers have their own websites (both porn and dating): because there's no shortage of FAs. There are lots of guys out there who are into BBWs.

Now, there may be a few women with a fetish for short guys — women who aren't just open to dating short guys but filled with a panty-dampening, crazy-making lust for short guys — but there aren't enough of them to form the critical mass necessary to sustain even one website for short guys and the women who admire them. So it looks like you'll have to redouble your efforts at regular dating websites, JCIL, i.e., "search harder for the lady/lady arms of your dreams."

Christian Rudder, one of the founders of OkCupid, took a look at the impact height has on the dating and mating success of the site's users. It probably won't surprise you to learn that taller guys have more sex — just one measure of romantic success — but it may surprise you to learn that extremely tall guys (six foot six and above) don't get many more "unsolicited messages" than extremely short guys. And then there's this: "Women six feet or taller are either less attractive to men or are considered too intimidating to message," Rudder writes. "[But] the data also raises the interesting possibility that these tall women are much more likely to sleep with a man who does approach them. Compare the six-foot-tall woman to her five-foot-four counterpart. The taller woman gets hit on about two-thirds as much, yet has had slightly more sex partners."

The takeaway for you, JCIL: Try hitting on taller women.

I am a straight male who has never been in a romantic relationship. I am not a virgin, but every romantic relationship I've tried to pursue has ended in disaster. While I am not a full-on clinical psychopath by a long shot, I am on that scale and do have psychopathic tendencies. I know this makes me sound like an asshole (and I probably am an asshole), but I am often the smartest person in the room. I wish this wasn't the case. Bottom line: I am extremely lonely. I have trouble relating to people, and they have trouble relating to me. I want to change how I relate to others, I want to be in a healthy relationship, and most of all I want to stop feeling so lonely, but I can't remember a time in my life when I didn't feel isolated. I don't even know where to start. Any guidance would be appreciated.

Alone And Afraid

You didn't mention seeking professional help, AAA, and maybe that's because you fear being smarter than the shrink in the room. But cognitive behavioral therapy is supposed to be an effective treatment for people with psychopathic tendencies. The goal isn't to change you or rewire your brain, as that's most likely impossible, but to change how you approach and interact with people. Also, AAA, a lot of people who are in relationships — even people who find it easy to interact with others — struggle with feelings of isolation. That's not uncommon. And there are tons of people out there who aren't psychopaths (or on the scale) who can describe their romantic histories in the same apocalyptic terms that you do. Get help, keep things in perspective, and borrow a page from LASS's playbook: Live your life, do shit, go places, even if you have to go alone for now.

I am a college student just trying to get through my senior year with some halfway decent grades and a smidge of sanity. As such, I have basically given up the social scene. I avoid sexual or romantic interactions. The problem is, while I recognize that I will have plenty of time for social stuff once I graduate (and some far better prospects available with a degree to my name), the rest of me is having trouble getting with the program. My weekends are a lot quieter and my wallet is more comfortable, but sometimes I can't help feeling lonely. Is there anything in your bag of tricks for this self-imposed hermit?

Losing Out Nearly Everyday

Masturbate daily, LONE, and remind yourself before, during, and after blowing those loads that your isolation is something you chose when you prioritized your education. It isn't something that was imposed on you by circumstance or height or mental illness — it's also a problem that will solve itself in six months. ●

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A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by [illegible] in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that [illegible]

THE PETITION requests [illegible]

A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 3, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. in Dept. 201 located at 2120 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court [illegible]

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. [illegible]

Attorney for Petitioner: [illegible]

12/17, 12/24 & 12/31/2014

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File # 499574 [illegible] 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/2014

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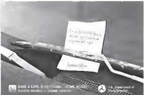
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(SECS. 6104, 6105 U.C.C. & B & P 24073 et seq.)

ESCROW NO: 15348-CA
DATE December 2[illegible], 2014

Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named seller that a sale that may constitute a bulk sale has been or will be made.

The individuals, partnership, or corporate names and the business addresses of the seller are:
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5600 Bay St, Emeryville CA 94608

The individuals, partnership, or corporate names and the business addresses of the buyer are:
Yeong Yle Roh and Yun Mi Roh
5600 Bay St, Emeryville CA 94608

As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are:
NONE KNOWN

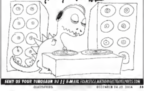
The assets sold or to be sold are described in general as: ALL FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, TRADE NAME, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE & ALL OTHER ASSETS OF THE BUSINESS KNOWN AS: Red Mango

AND ARE LOCATED AT: 5600 Bay St, Emeryville CA 94608.

(a) The place, and date on or after which, the Bulk Sale is to be consummated: Business & Escrow Service Center Inc. 3031 Tisch Way Suite 310 San Jose CA 95128 on or before January 13 2015.

(b) The last date to file claims is January 12, 2015, unless there is a liquor license transferring in which case claims may be filed until the date the license transfers.

12/24/2014



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